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CAPUTO GOES TO ROME TO MEET CHILEAN OFFICIALS

PY212351 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2105 GMT 21 Jan 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Jan (DYN) -- The Aerolineas Argentinas plane taking Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo to Rome lifted off from Ezeiza International Airport at 1710 this afternoon. Before his departure, the foreign minister noted that the declaration that he and his Chilean colleague Jaime del Valle will sign on Monday in the Vatican "does not concern specific issues of the papal mediation" on the Beagle conflict.

Issues Statement on Beagle

PY222306 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2210 GMT 21 Jan 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Jan (TELAM) -- Foreign Minister Dante Caputo tonight at 2000 made a televised statement on the negotiations to be carried out in the Vatican on the Beagle Channel border issue.

In Rome on Monday and after his return in Buenos Aires, he will expand on the background and technical details of this issue. The text of the statement follows:

The Foreign Ministry believes that it is its duty to inform the public about the background of the present state of the negotiations with the Republic of Chile over the Beagle Channel. As you know, an Argentine delegation, which I will have the honor to head, and a Chilean delegation will sign a joint peace and friendship declaration on Monday, 23 January, in the Vatican. Through this joint declaration the two parties are basically expressing their will to undertake, jointly with the papal mediation, what is technically called the conclusive stage of the treaty. I want primarily to point out that the content of this declaration does not encompass, under any circumstances, specific issues that are in dispute and that are subject to negotiation.

As you well know, this issue, this dispute with Chile, started several decades ago. In the last few years it reached a critical point that practically ended in a confrontation between two sister-nations.

Before this treaty is signed, we believe the government must inform the public about its background, about all the details involved, so that the people can have the necessary information to form their own opinion on the subject. In this respect, we have to follow a policy to safeguard the necessary diplomatic secrets, which in no way means that we will use what has been called secret diplomacy.

But, first of all, let us start with the political aspect of this problem. There are three major ways, three channels to move closer to a solution to this problem with the Republic of Chile. We are moving on one of these channels now. Within the framework of the papal mediation, we have made very important progress in bringing the positions of the two countries closer; thus we are now entering this final stage at which a treaty will be drafted. We believe that this is a momentous time at which major disagreements are being resolved by the two parties. We are convinced that this is the only way, the best way, whereby Argentina can safeguard both its rights and peace in the south.

There is of course another way, which we have ruled out freezing these negotiations, assuming that the papal mediation is not in the best interests of Argentina and that other demands should be made. We believe that the word freezing is an euphemism, because suspending the present negotiations, instead of having a freezing effect, would heat up things in the area. In other words, it would mean permanently maintaining the possibility of a conflict in the southern area which, as you all know, is detrimental to peace, stability, and to a basic objective this constitutional government is determined to achieve: to redirect and reallocate defense funds to priority social projects. Therefore, it is improper to think that these negotiations can be frozen. To freeze them would in fact mean to maintain an area of conflict with the prospect that another arbitration could again decide against the Argentine position.

There is obviously a third way, which is that of using nondiplomatic means to resolve this conflict. On this last point I would simply state the constitutional government's emphatic, steadfast opposition to using any means other than diplomacy to resolve our border conflicts.

And before closing these remarks to you, let me read a paragraph of the last message that John Paul II sent to the two governments on the occasion of the year-end holidays. John Paul II said: In conclusion, a new heart is that which is inspired by love. Pius XII already said that there can be no true external peace among men and peoples where there is no internal peace, that is, where the spirit of peace has not filled the people's minds and hearts. Peace should prevail in the people's minds so that they can acknowledge and respect the reasons behind justice, and their hearts can be guided by benevolence and justice, letting the latter prevail over the former because peace is more readily achieved through benevolence than through justice. And the Holy Father added: The objective is to reject violence, lies, and hatred. The objective is to build a human being who through his intentions, feelings, and overall behavior becomes a fraternal individual who is aware of the dignity and necessities of others, with whom he seeks to cooperate to create a world in peace.

'PROVISIONAL ASYLUM' GRANTED TO CHILEAN OFFICER

PY210158 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2301 GMT 20 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 20 Jan (TELAM) -- The Argentine Government has granted provisional asylum to Chilean Air Force Lieutenant Jose Eduardo Belmar Barrera, a government official reported today. This means that the Chilean officer is prohibited from leaving Mendoza, where he is currently staying, until his situation is resolved. Belmar Barrera, who retired from the Chilean Air Force in 1980, will be officially notified of this decision on Monday.

ALFONSIN REASSERTS PEACEFUL NUCLEAR PROGRAM

PY202145 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2016 GMT 19 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 19 Jan (TELAM) -- President Raul Alfonsin today reasserted that the Argentine nuclear program will have peaceful purposes, and that in no way will it be developed for military purposes, and that from now on the Congress will be in charge of outlining CNEA's [National Commission for Atomic Energy] policies and objectives.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH ORDERS ARREST OF GENERAL CAMPS

PY210250 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1705 GMT 19 Jan 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Jan (DYN) -- Former Buenos Aires police chief General Ramon J. Camps, retired, has been arrested on orders from the president of the nation, and will stand summary trial before the Armed Forces Supreme Council. The retired officers was arrested because of statements to the press in which he "reportedly admitted his direct involvement in the abduction and murder of thousands of persons, the seizure of minors, and the resulting change in their civil status."

According to an official report released at noon today, Camps is being held at the 1st Army headquarters. The report did not specify when he was detained. However, one can reasonably believe that he was arrested late last night or early today, because yesterday afternoon he reported to the 7th Infantry Regiment headquarters, located near La Plata, for depositions in the case brought against him in connection with the disappearance of Carlos Alaye. La Plata Federal Judge Hector de la Serna is hearing the case.

A copy of the decree by which the president ordered Camps' arrest was handed over to retired Brigadier Luis Maria Fages today. Fages, the president of the Armed Forces Supreme Council, received the copy from Defense Under Secretary Jose Horacio Juanarena. The decree is signed by President Alfonsin, Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli, and Defense Minister Raul Borras. It reads:

"In view of the seriousness of the actions recently disclosed through the statements to the press involving Gen Ramon Camps, and whereas:

"In some of his statements, Gen Camps reportedly admitted his direct involvement in the abduction and murder of thousands of persons, the seizure of minors and the resulting change in their civil status, having also reportedly advocated criminal actions, particularly torture.

"Publishers have confirmed that Gen Camps did make such statements, which have aroused the national and international public.

"The involvement of Gen Camps in the actions for which he reportedly admitted responsibility has been repeatedly confirmed by witnesses.

"There is tangible evidence that the crimes with which Gen Camps has been charged -- crimes for which he reportedly admitted responsibility -- have been committed in the Buenos Aires Province, taking into account the discovery of countless corpses of unidentified persons and the numerous reports on abductions and disappearance of persons in actions carried out as described in the whereas clauses of Decree No 158 dated 13 December 1983.

"The existing evidence, and the terms of military court regulation No 87 on publications reporting on penal actions justify the decision to exercise the faculty set forth in article 179 of the military code and thus bring the defendant to summary trial to establish his responsibility in keeping with the terms of Article 181 of the military code.

"The legal actions ordered by this decree and by decree 158/83 deal with the same matter, such actions must -- in keeping with the terms of Article 183 of the military code -- be unified into a non-wartime summary trial.

"Gen Camps has repeatedly and publicly left the country, and since his eventual failure to comply with court decisions might seriously undermine public confidence in the judicial branch, it is necessary to exercise the faculty set forth in Article 309 of the military code and order the arrest of the suspect until his responsibility is established.

"It is necessary to make clear in this decree that when making its decision, a decision that will have to conform to the terms of Article 251 of the military code, the court must take into account that the 24-hour period must be computed in keeping with the terms of said article rather than with those of military court regulation No 167. This means that the 24-hour period must begin after all the preliminary actions mentioned in Section II, Title III, Chapter III of the military code have been completed; and not after the questioning of the defendant.

"Through this action, the executive branch wants to reaffirm its unyielding will to bring those who prima facie appear to be responsible for designing and running a sinister organization of terror -- with the alleged objective of fighting an equally sinister terrorist opponent -- to court, with all the guarantees set forth by the law.

"The president of the Argentine Republic hereby decrees:

"Article 1. It is hereby ordered that Gen Ramon Camps be brought to summary trial before the Armed Forces Supreme Council, and that the trial be unified with the one initiated under Decree 158/83, taking into account that both deal with the same matter.

"Article 2. Gen Camps will be immediately arrested and will remain in custody until the initial actions aimed at establishing his responsibility are carried out.

"Article 3. It is hereby made clear that the period of time that must elapse until the resolution referred to in article 251 of the military code is issued will be computed in keeping with the terms of said article.

"Article 4. It is so ordered."

CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED AGAINST PARAMILITARY GROUPS

PY221937 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 22 Jan 84 p 13

[Text] Mar del Plata (NA) -- Vice-President Victor Martinez yesterday said that those responsible for incidents surrounding the court appearances of leading figures from former military juntas were not only motivated by "foreign" interests but also by "spurious" national ones while government sources revealed that the fight to eliminate paramilitary destabilization has already begun.

Speaking in an interview in the local daily LA CAPITAL, Martinez underlined the differences between the economic policies of the present administration and those of the previous military regime, pointing out that there was good news in the fight to protect real wages from inflation. He also blasted union leaders for their opposition to the reform of labour legislation and ascribed recent violence in this seaside resort to "outbursts of irrationality... by people who do not understand the value of democracy." Martinez went to his home town of Cordoba in the afternoon to pay tribute to former President Arturo Illia, who died last January.

Meanwhile over the weekend, a highly placed government source informed NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS news agency that it would take at least two or three years to fully dismantle the "repressive apparatus" assembled to fight terrorism by illegal means because of its underground nature. However, the source pointed out that state intelligence services had already begun work in this area and that all government funds for paramilitary groups had now been cut off.

Work to uncover paramilitary units, which Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli has recently referred to as "idle labour," must proceed in secrecy for obvious reasons, he added. The "fumigation" of security services and the Armed Forces would play a central role in this field, he further pointed out.

The source cited the numerous personal bodyguards of indicted military figures as evidence of the continued existence of security forces outside the law and said that in the very near future the police should have sole charge of preserving order. In the meantime, he continued, every step was being taken to avoid violent incidents such as those following retired General Luciano Benjamin Menendez' Tuesday appearance in Congress.

DECREE ASKS CITIZENS TO REPORT MILITARY CRIMES

PY211843 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0915 GMT 21 Jan 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Jan (NA) -- Through a decree published today in the newspapers, the Armed Forces Supreme Council has instructed the people to submit "any charges related to the perpetration of alleged crimes" that were carried out by members of the military, security, or police forces during the antisubversive struggle, at the Defense Ministry Legal Affairs Office.

The decree adds that the charges may be also submitted at "any offices of the three branches of the Armed Forces, and the permanent war councils, until 23 March 1984, inclusive." It adds that "the authorities that receive these charges must act in keeping with what is established in Article No 189 and in keeping with the Code of Military Justice."

The request to submit charges is consistent with Decree No 158/83, issued by President Raul Alfonsin in his capacity as commander in chief of the Armed Forces, against former members of the three military juntas and of the former Buenos Aires Federal Police Chief, Ramon Camps, for alleged human rights violations.

The decree was published in a two-column ad in newspapers LA PRENSA, LA NACION, and CLARIN, among others. The Defense Ministry Legal Affairs Office is located at 255 Colon Avenue, Buenos Aires.

DOCUMENTS ON ANTISUBVERSIVE CAMPAIGN DESTROYED

PY221943 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 22 Jan 84 p 13

[Text] Viedma (DYN-NA) -- Secret documents prepared by the provincial police intelligence forces and containing "suggestions" for "neutralizing" those persons "trying to discredit the National Reorganization Process" were destroyed shortly before the constitutional government assumed power, Governor Osvaldo Alvarez Guerrero's administration announced yesterday.

It was reported that under a former military process governor, retired Rear-Admiral Julio Acuna, "secret portfolios," 55 in all, were given to every Rio Negro mayor, to each of the provincial ministers and various secretaries, and to the provincial police chief, as part of a "Hammer Plan: Complementary Procedures for Government Action in the Fight Against Subversion."

The Radical Rio Negro government said it would immediately begin legal proceedings against those responsible for the destruction of the government documents.

A salvaged portfolio, the finding of which launched an investigation into past government activities, includes the "suggestion" of "avoiding the use and publication of texts, bibliographies, teaching, cultural, and scientific aids whose contents are full of extreme ideological connotations."

The portfolio also singles out the "external and internal subversive Marxist aggression" as a constant threat to the province that must be "done away with or neutralized."

DEPUTIES DRAW LOTS TO DECIDE WHO LEAVES IN 1985

PY221920 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 21 Jan 84 p 9

[Text] (DYN-NA) -- The Chamber of Deputies drew lots early yesterday morning at 2-am in order to decide which half of the congressmen would serve out four-year terms and which half will have to step down on December 9, 1985, in order to make way for the victors of subsequent midterm elections.

Chamber President Juan Carlos Publiese (Radical-Buenos Aires) together with the caucus leaders of the two main parties, Radical Cesar Jaroslavsky and Peronist Diego Ibanez, both had the luck of the Second Vice-President Adan Pedrini (Peronist-Chaco) and both vice-presidents of the Justicialist caucus. Radicals Ruben Rabanal and Federico Storani, chairmen of the Economy and Foreign Affairs Committees, respectively, will also be staying on until 1987, as will Christian Democrat Augusto Conte and centrist Alvaro Alsogaray.

Less fortunate were the Radical chairmen of the Constitutional Affairs and Defense Committees, Jorge Vanossi and Juan Manuel Casella. Other prominent Radical "casualties" included Buenos Aires deputies Vicente Mastrolorenzo and Leopoldo Moreau, Chamber Senior Vice-president Marcelo Stubrin, media expert Francisco Gimenez (Santiago del Estero) and Santa Fe Deputies Luis Caceres and Roberto Sanmartino, the former a close advisor of President Raul Alfonsin and the latter chairman of the House Labor Committee.

In two years' time Peronist ranks will be foregoing the services of well-known trade unionists Rodolfo Ponce, Fernando Donaires, and Luis Casale together with Miguel Unamuno, one of the leading figures of the influential Movement for Unity, Solidarity and Organization (MUSO), and Norberto Imbelloni, a close associate of Buenos Aires party leader Herminio Iglesias.

Among the minor parties, the Intransigents will be losing the two best-known of their three deputies in 1985, namely Miguel Monserrat and Raul Rabanaque Caballero, while Alsogaray will forfeit the assistance of his party's only other deputy, Jose Manni. Four members of provincial parties will also be stepping down in 1985.

JOINT MANEUVERS WITH U.S. ARMY ANNOUNCED

PY210241 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Jan 84

[Excerpts] The Armed Forces Joint Command has disclosed its plan to carry out joint maneuvers with the participation of approximately 200 soldiers of the Bolivian and U.S. Armies. The joint maneuvers, called "Cochabamba Uno," the first between Bolivia and the United States, will be carried out between 22 and 27 January in Santa Lucia, 40 km southeast of Cochabamba.

Of the approximately 200 soldiers taking part in the exercises, approximately 50 of them will be from the U.S. Army, and of these some 35 will be U.S. paratroopers, with the remaining 15 giving air and land support.

Some five paratroop raids have been scheduled during the maneuvers using U.S. and Bolivian aircraft. At the end of the maneuvers, the Bolivian paratroopers will receive U.S. Army certificates.

INFORMATION MINISTER CONFIRMS ZUAZO'S MANDATE

PY210235 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Jan 84

[Excerpt] President Siles Zuazo's constitutional mandate is legitimate because he was elected by the people in three consecutive elections. This statement was made by Information Minister Mario Rueda at the end of a cabinet meeting held today, Friday.

Minister Rueda Pena added that the Congress, in granting the presidential mandate to Siles Zuazo, only ratified the people's desire, as is established in the Constitution.

Minister Rueda Pena said that the legislative branch by no means has the power to revoke President Siles Zuazo's 4-year presidential mandate. The information minister voiced his hopes that the extraordinary congressional session will agree on this point of the democratic process.

OPPOSITION SCORES CABINET REAPPOINTMENTS

PY211225 Paris AFP in Spanish 1541 GMT 20 Jan 84

[Excerpts] La Paz, 20 Jan (AFP) -- The Bolivian opposition today continued to criticize the fact that on Thursday President Siles Zuazo confirmed 13 of 18 ministers, while official government sectors tried to justify their attitude. For his part, the deputy for the Bolivian Socialist Party-One (PS-1), which was founded by the late legislator Marcelo Quiroga Santa Cruz, noted that the time has come for the working class and its natural allies to assume the leadership of the democratic process and to gear itself toward the promotion of socialist and national liberation. Ciro Humboldt Barrero, deputy of the Historic Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNR-H), which is headed by former President Victor Paz Estenssoro, noted that the censure of the cabinet was no mere whim but that it was issued with the objective of changing the regime's indifference to solving national problems.

The executive secretary of the Nationalist Democratic Action (ADN), which is headed by General Hugo Banzer Suarez, stated that the fact that Siles Zuazo left the country without a government for 35 days and then confirmed almost 80 percent of his ministers cannot be justified. Therefore, the ADN deplores the provocative attitude adopted by the president.

In view of this, the Senate will issue a statement on Monday, while the Congress will hold an extraordinary session on Wednesday.

For its part, Guillermo Richter, deputy of the pro-Chinese Marxist-Leninist Communist Party (PCML), noted that Siles Zuazo's decision reflects the corrupt, sectarian, and anti-democratic authoritarianism that is exercised in power.

However, the confirmation of the majority of ministers was justified by Erasmo Perez, deputy of the ruling Christian Democratic Party (PDC), who said that the Constitution grants complete freedom to the president to appoint his advisers.

Jorge Kolle Cueto, leader of the also ruling Bolivian Communist Party (PCB, Pro-Soviet) told AFP that not all ministers have been confirmed. He said that, for example, through the appointment of Christian Democrat Oscar Bonifaz a bridge has been established between the government and the private sector. It was noted that Bonifaz is connected to the Bolivian private mining sector.

Paradoxically, for the time being there have been no reactions from Siles Zuazo's party, the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement of the Left (MNR-I) within which there seems to be some discontent about the number of Christian Democrats who have been appointed to the cabinet.

Socialist Falange Critical

PY201257 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Jan 84

[Text] In a communique signed by engineer (Remis) Solares, president of the party's National Executive Committee, and by engineer (R.L.) Penaranda, vice president of the party's National Executive Committee, the Bolivian Socialist Falange says that the incapability of the Siles Zuazo government can no longer be accepted. It warns that the extremely arbitrary attitude of the UDP [Democratic and Popular Union] government in submitting the country to instability, due to the lack of authority during a cabinet crisis which lasted more than 5 weeks, just to confirm in their posts ministers who are responsible for deepening the country's economic and social woes, is a mockery, open defiance, and shows a lack of respect for the Bolivian people.

The Bolivian Socialist Falange notes that unless the system of government is changed, and if the irresponsibility, ineptitude, and mediocrity of the Siles Zuazo regime continues, the result will be an inevitable confrontation between the people and the UDP government.

It adds that it should be understood that the country's problem is not just economic, but rather political, and that a government lacking moral strength and that is corrupt, demagogic, and in disarray will not be able to propose solutions.

The Bolivian Socialist Falange again reiterates that the way out of the present deadlock is the installation of an emergency government to call for general elections in 1984.

PAZ ZAMORA, FLAVIO BRAVO EXCHANGE LETTERS

PY220215 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 15 Jan 84 pp 8, 9

[Excerpts] Through the press secretariat, the vice president of the nation has sent a letter to the director of EL DIARIO, Jorge Carrasco, regarding an article that was recently published under the headline "The Vice President's Letter to Cuba." It was noted that Jaime Paz Zamora had sent "a protocol letter to his colleague, the president of the Cuban National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], responding to an invitation to visit Cuba extended to a group of Bolivian legislators from the many Bolivian political groups".

Moreover, the vice presidential press secretariat issued the text of the notes that were exchanged between Jaime Paz Zamora and Flavio Bravo Pardo, the ANPP president.

Mr Flavio Bravo Pardo
President of the National Assembly of the People's Government
Havana, Cuba

Your Excellency:

On the occasion of the visit of a delegation of honorable Bolivian legislators to your country, I wish to extend to you and to the members of the ANPP of Cuba, which you chair, greetings from the Bolivian people and from their Honorable National Congress.

I hope that at this time we shall be able to evaluate the ties between our two nations and legislative institutions.

Today more than ever it is necessary to strengthen our common Latin American feelings and convictions through meetings of this nature, which thanks to your cordial invitation we are able to hold.

In view of this I wish to extend my deep respect.

Signed, Jaime Paz Zamora, Constitutional Vice President of the Republic of Bolivia

Mr Jaime Paz Zamora,
Constitutional Vice President of the Republic of Bolivia.

Your Excellency:

It is with great pleasure that I answer your cordial letter dated 8 November, which I received through the honorable delegation of Bolivian legislators who visited our country.

It has been a great honor for us to receive greetings from the Bolivian people and from their honorable National Congress, and I express our gratitude in the name of the Cuban legislators and of our people.

I fully agree that today more than ever we need to strengthen our Latin American convictions and feelings, and I believe that meetings such as the one we held with the honorable Bolivian legislators will surely contribute to unite us in our common goal of achieving the Latin American fatherland that was sought by Bolivar, whose name inspired the name of your country and whose ideals are still in force today, on the occasion in which we commemorate the bicentennial of his birth.

Through these lines, which will be presented to you by our distinguished visitors, I wish to extend to you my highest respect. Signed Flavio Bravo Pardo

FOREIGN MINISTRY OPPOSES ARMS SALE TO IRAN

PY211545 Paris AFP in Spanish 0342 GMT 21 Jan 84

[Text] Sao Paulo, 20 Jan (AFP) -- It was reported here tonight that for political reasons the Brazilian Foreign Ministry has recently expressed its opposition to the sale of Brazilian-made arms to Iran. The information, which was attributed to unidentified military sources and which was disclosed by the O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO newspaper's news agency, added that the Brazilian Foreign Ministry's attitude deeply annoyed the (?Brazilian) military.

The sources added that Brazilian President Joao Figueiredo had authorized the sale but that the buyers declined the offer in view of the delay in the negotiations with the manufacturers, which was caused by the Brazilian Foreign Ministry's opposition.

Discussing with a Brazilian journalist an order that was issued today on the 43d anniversary of the creation of the Air Force Ministry, General Delio Jardim de Mattos, the Brazilian Air Force minister, said this afternoon that we have to be more practical on trade issues and sell our products to all countries of the world.

Regarding the order -- in which he said that in making important decisions we must leave aside excessively puritanical attitudes because they drive us to the edge of the precipice, just as the best of virtues -- General de Mattos said that he was referring exclusively to the present Brazilian trade policy.

PLANS ANNOUNCED TO MAKE IRIDIUM-192 CAPSULES

PY201405 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Jan 84 p 8

[Text] The National Nuclear Energy Commission yesterday signed contracts with two private enterprises, Brazilian Nuclear Technology Company and QUALITEC Environmental Engineering and Quality Control Inc, to assemble up to 100-curie iridium-192 waffles, which are used industrially in the quality testing of materials and equipment. These waffles are now being imported at an approximate cost of $1,000 FOB each, with an activity of 100 curies. At first, the iridium irradiating disks will be imported to be encapsulated at the Energy Research Institute (IPEN). The national consumption of these iridium irradiating capsules is 400 per year.

The president of the Brazilian Nuclear Technology Company, Agnaldo Rocha, has revealed that this product will be available on the market in March or April, 240 capsules will be made available on the internal market, and another 240 capsules will be marketed in Latin America through a contract signed with the British company Amersham International which will distribute the product primarily in Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, and Venezuela.

The president of the National Nuclear Energy Commission, Rex Nazare Alves, has revealed that the commission's 1984 budget for research and production is on the order of 35 billion cruzeiros, compared to 20 billion cruzeiros in 1983.

PROFESSIONAL GROUPS SUPPORT DIRECT ELECTIONS

PY202149 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Jan 84 p 19

[Excerpts] The Brazilian Lawyers Guild and 10 other professional associations representing more than 1 million of the nation's university graduates yesterday issued a manifesto in favor of direct election of the nation's president. "The process of political liberalization cannot stop now, and profound institutional transformations must be completed without delay in order to ensure the unrestricted exercise of democracy One of the most important transformations refers to the direct election of the nation's president, a way of electing a president which has historical and political roots in Brazil and which is the most legitimate way of expressing the will of the nation. This is not a question of confronting two election systems, the direct and indirect, but of making direct election a clear option because it sums up the wishes of all Brazilians.

Therefore, the organizations which have issued this manifesto nationwide and which represent the nation's lawyers, architects, scientists, economists, teachers, engineers, writers, journalists, physicians, and university professors voice their determination to struggle for direct elections to choose the next president of Brazil. We do not envision direct elections as the immediate solution to all the country's problems, but as an indispensable and decisive step toward addressing those problems in a democratic manner.

These are the organizations which support the manifesto: Brazilian Lawyers Guild, Brazilian Lawyers Institute, Brazilian Press Association, Brazilian Society for the Progress of Science, Brazilian Education Association, Brazilian Medical Association, National Association of University Professors, Federal Economic Council, National Engineers Federation, Architects' Institute of Brazil, and Brazilian Writers' Union.

DEL VALLE TO MEET ARGENTINA'S CAPUTO IN ROME

PY200228 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 19 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Colonel Ernesto Videla, head of the Chilean delegation to the papal mediation, has reported that the Argentine and Chilean foreign ministers will be separately received by Pope John Paul II on Monday, 23 January. Videla has disclosed the agenda of the meeting at which the two countries are to sign a statement of peace and friendship.

[Begin Videla recording] [in progress] The solemn, joint meeting, presided over by Secretary of State Cardinal Agostino Cassaroli, will be held on Monday at 1000. This meeting will consist of speeches by Cardinal Cassaroli and by the two foreign ministers. There will be a joint statement of peace and friendship issued by the two countries, followed by a joint communique. At 1245 the two foreign ministers will be received successively by the Holy Father along with their entourages. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Comments

PY200258 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 19 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Chilean Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle is traveling to Rome now. Del Valle will meet Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo at the Vatican next Monday. The Chilean delegation to Rome will also be made up of the head of the Chilean delegation to the mediation Colonel Ernesto Videla and by the head of the foreign office Rodrigo Serrano. Also traveling will be advisers (Julio Felice), (Patricio Prieto), (Helmut Brunner), and (Osvaldo Munoz). In Rome, they will be joined by the permanent ambassador to the mediation, Santiago Benadava, and the Chilean ambassador to the United Kingdom, Francisco Orrego. Before leaving for Rome, del Valle voiced his hope that the talks to begin on Monday will conclude successfully.

[Begin Del Valle recording] I believe that this is a very significant trip. I believe that we have to view the talks that will start next Monday with optimism, and hope that they will finally conclude successfully. [end recording]

Del Valle concluded by saying that he expected to be back in Chile in 1 week.

REPORTAGE ON PAPAL NUNCIATURE SITUATION

Del Valle Comments

PY200244 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1615 GMT 19 Jan 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle has said that there could be an answer to the case of the four persons in the nunciature when he returns from Rome. Before leaving for Rome this afternoon, Jaime del Valle was consulted about the nunciature's petitions in this regard.

[Begin recording] [Question indistinct]

[Del Valle] Look, there is no answer yet. As I said yesterday, it is a case that is being analyzed and I have nothing more to say about this subject.

[Question indistinct]

[Del Valle] The decision will be made by the president of the republic, but the issue, obviously, must be carefully analyzed.

[Reporter] The nunciature has asked for safe-conduct, hasn't it?

[Del Valle] The nuncio's petition will be disclosed at the appropriate time.

[Question indistinct]

[Del Valle] No, we only received some information on their background and not the complete file of their case. We are now analyzing their background, hence the delay. [end recording]

Minister del Valle will remain in Rome until the end of next week. Secret documents have been exchanged by the Foreign Ministry and nunciature during the past few hours. Reliable ministry sources did not deny that safe-conduct has been requested for the four guests of the nunciature. Minister del Valle was asked when the government would give its answer to this request.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Could you tell us when (?the nunciature will receive a definite answer)?

[Del Valle] We will have more precise information when I return to the country. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

The Foreign Ministry continues to analyze this issue thoroughly. In the meantime, Monsignor Angelo Solano has continued to receive important personalities at the nunciature. Santiago Archbishop Monsignor Juan Francisco Fresno met for more than half an hour with the nuncio, who was also visited by Norwegian Ambassador Helge Vindenes and Spanish Minister Councillor (Malel Catequizada).

MIR Issues Communique

PY201820 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 20 Jan 84

[Text] In a clandestine communique, the National Board of the outlawed Revolutionary Movement of the Left [MIR] calls for support for the petition of safe-conduct so that the four militia members, as the extremists are called in the communique, may leave the country. The MIR emphasizes that the message is addressed to the people's organizations, most particularly to the members of the Christian grassroots communities and the priests and nuns of the parishes.

The terrorist organization says that the four subversives who entered the nunciature in Santiago carried arms with which they would defend their lives. The document admits that they were fleeing from the security services. The MIR states that the search for protection at a Christian institution is based on what it calls the tradition of humanitarian aid granted by the Chilean church, which is appreciated by the MIR, as is stated at the end of the communique released by the terrorist-Marxist group.

Santiago Archbishop Monsignor Juan Francisco Fresno has expressed the hope that the problem created at the nunciature by the entry of four MIR members may be solved satisfactorily and according to Chilean law. He made this comment when talking with newsmen who attended the closing ceremony of a course organized by the Teachers Association.

When asked about the problem of the nunciature, where the extremists (Elva Duarte Valles), (Jaime Yovanovich Prieto), Pamela del Carmen Cordero, and (Jose Hector Aguilar Zuazo) are in refuge, he said that it will be solved, well, I suppose, just as other problems have been solved on other occasions. In reply to another question he said that the nuncio had not said what he thought about this question, because he is handling the situation directly with the Foreign Ministry.

He added that he had nothing much to report on the matter. He said that he had gone to greet the papal nuncio and to tell him about his concern. When asked if he agreed that safe-conducts should be given to those individuals, the prelate said: I think that Chilean law should be complied with.

RALLIES HONORING FORMER PRESIDENT AUTHORIZED

PY20111C Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 19 Jan 84

[Text] The metropolitan intendency has authorized two rallies in honor of Eduardo Frei. It was reported that two marches will go to the general cemetery and then to the cathedral, where services will be said. All this will take place on Saturday. The intendency has issued a communique stating that a permit was granted with the understanding that the organizers of these rallies, due to their nature, will keep at all times within the boundaries of due order and respect, to pay homage to a former president of the country. Let this not be an excuse for showing disrespect toward the authorities, the fatherland's symbols, and the rights of third parties.

The communique also adds that the organizers of the rallies must morally commit themselves before the citizenry that they will not give rise to possible outrages or vandalistic actions by agitators who may attempt to participate in such rallies. On the other hand, the metropolitan intendency did not authorize another demonstration that was to be held at bus stop No 25 in Santa Rosa on 24 January because there is so much traffic in that area.

Ceremony Ends Peacefully

PY220100 Paris AFP in Spanish 2330 GMT 21 Jan 84

[Text] Santiago, 21 Jan (AFP) -- Thousands of youths from various sectors today marched to the main cemetery in Santiago to pay homage to former Christian Democratic President Eduardo Frei Montalva (1964-1970) on the second anniversary of his death. The event, which took place without incident and in the presence of a large group of policemen, marked the end of a program to commemorate the second anniversary of the former president's death. Frei died on 22 January 1982 after a long illness at 71 years of age.

At the cemetery Gabriel Valdes, president of the Christian Democratic Party, in the midst of shouts, urged Chilean youth to resume now the march started in 1964. Eduardo Frei Ruiz Tagle, the former president's eldest son, on his part asked the youths to undertake the commitment to make his father's desire for peace, justice, equality, solidarity, and freedom a reality.

Monsignor Cristian Precht, Santiago vicar general, had previously held a mass in Frei's memory at the metropolitan cathedral. In his homily Precht praised the late president's personality and his works. He pointed out that Eduardo desired to serve. He was a sober, unselfish human being, who considered power a tool to serve his country. The mass was attended by several hundred persons in addition to a large number of youths that repeated the march of the Youth of the Fatherland, such as that carried out in 1964 when the Christian Democratic Party was in power.

Msgr Precht made a plea to work for peace, justice, and freedom, stating that they are all feasible despite many oppressions. The Santiago vicar general pointed out that we cannot remain indifferent to the sufferings and injustice to which the poor are subject, and he requested those present to struggle for peace and to reject violence.

The two ceremonies to pay homage to the late president were authorized by the military government on Thursday. In a communique issued by the metropolitan city hall, it is stated that the authorization is granted in the belief that the organizers of these public events at all times will observe the respect and order with which a former president of the republic should be recalled.

UNION LEADER REPORTED MISSING; SEARCH ORDERED

PY211555 Paris AFP in Spanish 0051 GMT 21 Jan 84

[Text] Santiago, 20 Jan (AFP) -- It has been reported that the Chilean police have undertaken today an investigation into the strange disappearance of opposition union leader Alamiro Guzman, who was last seen on 30 December. Guzman, former secretary general of the leftist National Coordinating Board of Unions (CNS) and former president of the National Mining Federation, left his house on the afternoon of 30 December and his whereabouts since then are unknown. His wife, Elba Chacon, officially reported his disappearance to the court after she visited hospitals, care centers, and police stations with no positive results. The semi-official newsagency ORBE has reported that authorities have ordered the police to undertake the necessary investigations to find the missing union leader.

Unionist Denies Disappearance

PY212346 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1615 GMT 21 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Union leader Alamiro Guzman has personally denied charges that he disappeared. The former secretary of the National Union Coordinating Board personally visited Radio Cooperativa to deny these charges. He said: It is not true that I have disappeared, because I have been at my house all this time.

MORE HIGH-LEVEL ARMED FORCES APPOINTMENTS MADE

PA210428 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Jan 84

[Text] The Colombian Government today made 12 appointments in the Armed Forces. The appointments, formalized in Decree 127 of 20 January 1984, which was signed by Colombian President Belisario Betancur and Defense Minister General Gustavo Matamoros, are as follows:

Major General Miguel Francisco Vega Uribe, Commander of the Military Forces; Major General Josue Leal Barrera, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Major General Rafael Samudio Molina, Army deputy commander and chief of the Army General Staff; Major General Luis Alberto Andrade Anaya, Military Forces inspector general; Major General Diego Alfonso Gonzalez Ossa, Defense Ministry secretary general; Major General Oscar Botero Restrepo, Army inspector general; Major General Obdulio Forero Moreno, commander of the Army; Major General Augusto Ignacio Moreno Guerrero, commander of the Colombian Air Force; Major General Alberto Franco Vasquez, depty commander and chief of the Air Force General Staff.

By virtue of the same decree, the following officers were appointed as division commanders, while retaining their brigade commander status:

Brigadier General Ernesto Lopez Ramirez, commander of the 2d Division and of the 5th Brigade; Brigadier General Antonio Jose Gonzalez Prado, commander of the 1st Division and of the 4th Brigade; Brigadier General Jose Alirio Alvarado Hernandez, commander of the 5th Division and of the 10th Brigade.

DEFENSE MINISTER ON PEACE EFFORTS, SUBVERSIVES

PA201540 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 20 Jan 84

[Text] Bogota -- General Gustavo Matamoros D'Acosta, who will assume his post as defense minister in the presence of President Belisario Betancur today, has declared that the military must be subordinate to civilian authority. Gen Matamoros also declared his intention to cooperate with the peace process. He noted, however, that if the subversive groups insist on armed struggle, the military forces will be ready to face them, because they will not drop their guard. We have to fulfill all of our institutional missions, and we have always done so properly, he said, adding: The Republic has given us weapons so that we may guarantee the life, honor, and property of the citizens and support our democratic institutions and our government system. We will obey orders from our immediate superior, President Betancur, and we will cooperate in all efforts to secure peace. We will spare no efforts in this regard. Gen Matamoros made this statement to CARACOL at the conclusion of a meeting with President Betancur. Gen Matamoros said that President Betancur and the military agree on the effort to secure peace, adding that this was made evident by the exchange of letters between the head of state and the outgoing defense minister.

Gen Matamoros declared: It is we, the military, who most want peace for Colombia, so that the country can make progress and improve. The new defense minister said that the military commanders' policy is to serve and to work for the objective of accord among Colombians.

Referring to the amnesty law, General Matamoros said: The president has said on several occasions that the pardon covers crimes committed before the law was approved but not those committed thereafter, because that would be impunity. Gen Matamoros also said that public order in the country is fragile and that the nation must solve various problems. We will never drop our guard, and we will continue to be supporters of order and peace, Gen Matamoros said.

Gen Matamoros will take his oath before President Betancur in a ceremony in the protocol office, in the presence of the cabinet and the military High Command.

BETANCUR SAYS DECISION ON LANDAZABAL FIRM

PA201723 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Jan 84

[Text] Cartagena -- Today in statements to the military High Command, President Belisario Betancur emphatically reiterated that his decisions (?are firm) and irreversible and must therefore be obeyed by all citizens, including the military.

President Betancur told Colombians that he accepted the resignation of his friend, General Fernando Landazabal Reyes, for the country's sake, despite his personal feelings. He thanked the officers for their thoughtful, analytical, and patriotic reception of this news. [passage indistinct]

Upon receiving the first of four corvettes -- each of which carried helicopters -- purchased by Colombia, Betancur thanked Landazabal for his work during his term as national defense minister.

HERRERA CAMPINS, BETANCUR MEET AT BORDER

PA220413 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 21 Jan 84

[Text] Cucuta -- I am satisfied that I have done my duty, and I am pleased that our countries are continuing their close association. I hope that they stand as democratic examples for Latin America and the world. These statements were made by Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins during a meeting with Colombian President Belisario Betancur. The two heads of state met this morning at the International Bridge over the Tachira River, near San Antonio, on the Venezuelan-Colombian border, where they discussed topics of great interest to both nations. Betancur was very pleased; he seemed joyful. He playfully tossed two pebbles into the river, reminiscing about his childhood days when -- he said -- one of the members of his retinue used to do the same in his hometown, Amaga.

The two presidents and their delegations will visit the Venezuelan village of Urena, where President Betancur will decorate Colombian painter Omar Rayo and Venezuelan painter Rafael Bogarin with the National Order of Merit. They are the creators of a work that has received very positive reviews from art critics. It was also reported that Betancur and Herrera Campins will sign a declaration affirming the shared spirit of the two nations and their confidence that their differences will be resolved and that solidarity will prevail.

Herrera Campins will turn over the presidency to Democratic Action leader Jaime Lusinchi in a ceremony to take place on 2 February in Caracas.

LLOREDA DENIES RESUMPTION OF TIES WITH CUBA

PA222019 Bogota El SIGLO in Spanish 18 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Foreign Affairs Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo yesterday said that Colombia is not negotiating a resumption of diplomatic relations with Cuba. In a radio statement the foreign minister admitted that Colombia and Cuba have held "cordial contacts" at various meetings and international forums, but added that "there is no hurry" to resume relations.

Colombia broke off relations with the Castro regime in 1981 after it was determined that an M-19 [19 April Movement] column, which made a Pacific landing to invade Colombia from the south, had received military training in Cuba. In addition, Lloreda Caicedo said that he had no official knowledge of a possible fishing trip through Colombia by Cuban leader Fidel Castro. Several rumors have circulated about such a trip, and it has even been reported that Castro was invited by the Colombian Government, but the rumors were finally negated. Lloreda reiterated that in his recent talks with Venezuelan personalities, including Simon Alberto Consalvi, the new minister-secretary of the Presidency, he found a good attitude toward settling the controversy between the two countries over the delineation of marine and submarine areas. As is known, the change in government will occur in Venezuela next month. The new president is reportedly well disposed toward reaching an agreement with Colombia. President Belisario Betancur will attend the inauguration of President-elect Jaime Lusinchi.

FARC COMMUNIQUE SEEKS TO 'UNMASK' DISSIDENTS

PA162311 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 12 Jan 84 p 11-A

[Article by Jairo Cala Otero]

[Text] Bucaramanga, 11 Jan -- A female attorney from this city and her brother, together with two other persons, were identified today as members of the self-styled Armed Forces for the Liberation of Colombia [Fuerzas Armadas para la Liberacion de Colombia -- FALCO], which is a FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] dissident group carrying out acts of extortion and blackmail in the large Santander area. This serious accusation is contained in a communique that the pro-Soviet FARC distributed to the Bucaramanga media to "unmask this aberration." In addition to describing the clandestine organization as a saboteur of the process of democratic dialogue, FARC accused FALCO of carrying out the kidnapping of student Dario Alfonso Guarin, whom FALCO murdered at the end of 1983 after receiving 22 million pesos ransom.

The FARC's 12th Front cited attorney Zoila Rosa Hernandez, her brother Olinto Hernandez, Ovidio Morales, and Gustavo Carrillo as FALCO members. FARC also claims that FALCO is divided into three small groups of four persons each and that the division "occurred because of in-fighting over the booty received from kidnappings and extortion." The communique also states that FALCO members "have focused their activities on pillaging and extortion, like true crooks, with complete disregard for ideological or political principles." The communique ends by stating that "this contemptible behavior and the recent kidnappings carried out by these criminal bands are their way of sabotaging the process of dialogue and the democratic peace proposals that we have promoted from middle Magdalena."

SCHWALB SAYS PERU UPHOLDING 1942 TREATY

PY212148 Paris AFP in Spanish 2214 GMT 20 Jan 84

[Text] Lima, 20 Jan (AFP) -- Prime Minister Fernando Schwalb Lopez Aldano today said that Peru will not play the game of creating a scandal over the armed incident that took place last Sunday on the Ecuadoran-Peruvian border.

Schwalb added that it is not the intention of the Peruvian Government to lessen the importance of the incident, but that it is presenting the issue within its true dimension by reporting the facts just as they occurred.

This is the way the foreign minister answered journalists when asked about the second protest note submitted by the Ecuadoran Foreign Ministry regarding the incident on the Corrientes River, a tributary of the Amazon River, in which one Eucadoran soldier was killed and another wounded.

Moreover, the Peruvian foreign minister noted that Peru's position is supported by the 1942 peace, friendship, and border treaty and that it would be absurd to think that Peru is interested in crossing the border line to create disorder.

Schwalb added that demarcation of the border is important but not imperative, since the border was established by the Rio de Janeiro Treaty, which is a perfect, irrevocable, and inexorable document.

AYACUCHO ON ALERT FOLLOWING EXPLOSIONS

PY201550 Lima Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0300 GMT 20 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Security forces were placed on alert in Ayacucho tonight due to 25 explosions there. Several persons have been wounded, according to a report from our correspondent (Mario Cueto Cardenas).

[Begin relay] This is a report from Ayacucho. At least 25 explosions hit this city from 1900 to 2000 tonight. The bombs exploded in the outskirts of the police hospital, La Alameda, Puento Nuevo, the (Lama de Venus) Police post, and in San Juan Bautista. Immediately after the explosions, the police and Army forces deployed their units in small tanks and other vehicles. Machine gun fire was heard. The streets were empty except for police and Army units patrolling the city. The (Emadi) and San Juan Bautista neighborhoods were left without electricity.

At this time all we know is that some people with bullet wounds have been taken to the Ayacucho Central Hospital. [end relay]

SHINING PATH KILLS 40 PEASANTS IN AYACUCHO

PY202355 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1525 GMT 20 Jan 84

[Text] Lima, 20 Jan (EFE) -- On Tuesday, 17 January, 40 peasants were slain by a group of approximately 100 members of the Maoist "Shining Path" terrorist organization in Urancancha, Ayacucho Department.

The EL COMERCIO newspaper today reports that the terrorists entered Urancancha, Ayacucho Department, gathered all the town's residents in the main square, and then read out the names of 40 people who had allegedly cooperated with the authorities in the antiterrorist war.

All 40 persons named were then beheaded or shot to death by the Shining Path members in front of the entire population of Urancancha, despite the pleas of the victim's relatives.

The massacre was reportedly led by Hildebrando Perez, a Shining Path leader who once taught in Huamanga University in Ayacucho. Perez escaped from the Ayacucho penitentiary on 2 March 1982 during an attack launched by Shining Path subversives in which 15 persons were killed.

SHINING PATH EXPLODES BOMBS IN MIRAFLORES

PY201600 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 20 Jan 84

[Text] New terrorist actions hit this city tonight. Shining Path members placed explosive devices in various areas of Miraflores from 2000 to 2030. The first explosion was in an apartment located on the third block of the Ricardo Palma Avenue. The device exploded in Apartment 22, destroying the door and breaking windows. Another bomb exploded at 2030 in a parking lot located on Los Pinos, causing no damage. Subversive literature was found there. About 100 meters from this area, another bomb exploded damaging some nearby shops. Another bomb was placed in Radio Miraflores, but the device did not explode and was then deactivated.

BRIEFS

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH NAURU -- The Peruvian Government has decided to establish diplomatic relations at the embassy level with the Republic of Nauru. This will be a concurrent embassy with its seat at the Peruvian Embassy in Australia. [Excerpt] [Lima Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 0641 GMT 6 Jan 84 PY]

FOREIGN DEBT FIGURE FOR 1983 -- During 1983 Peru's foreign debt payment amounted to $675 million. At the end of 1983, the country's international reserves amounted to $979 million. [Summary] [Lima Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 0644 GMT 6 Jan 84 PY]

NATIONAL BANK PRESIDENT RESIGNS -- Lima, 13 Jan (AFP) -- National Bank President Augusto Blacker Millec today resigned from his post. Blacker said that he resigned because of mistreatment. The economy minister today said that he had requested Blacker's resignation. It was also learned today that all the other members of the bank resigned along with Blacker. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 0323 GMT 14 Jan 84 PY]

TENSE ATMOSPHERE FOLLOWS GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS

PY202345 Paris AFP in Spanish 1727 GMT 20 Jan 84

[By AFP special correspondent Oscar Martinez]

[Text] Montevideo, 20 Jan (AFP) -- Political circles today agreed that the arrest of union leaders, the police raids on labor union headquarters, and the dismissal of and sanctions applied to public servants who observed the strike on Wednesday have disturbed the social atmosphere in Uruguay.

In response to the almost unanimous 24-hour general strike, the first one held in 11 years of military regime, President Gregorio Alvarez' government dissolved the Interunion Workers Plenum [PIT], ordered that factories that have been occupied by workers be vacated, and prohibited the dissemination of any information regarding conflicts in the labor sector.

Last night the security forces raided and took into custody the headquarters of the rubber and glass unions while one leader of the health sector was arrested. The health sector union leaders were summoned and searched because of the occupation, which occurred only on the day of the strike, of a dozen social welfare medical centers and their hospitals.

Leaders of the PIT and associated unions are continuing to hide out to avoid arrest because they have been charged with having ordered the strike. This workers' right was outlawed in 1973. Nevertheless, from somewhere in the city they are making sporadic phone calls to the media to report on their situation and that of the workers' movement in general.

Today the electric appliance factory TEM was being peacefully vacated by the workers themselves after they were officially warned that their position was illegal. The workers of two more plants that had been occupied a few days ago have been dislodged within the past few hours. There is still no information on whether any arrests or skirmishes took place.

Political sources commented that the dismissal and sanctions applied to public servants for having observed the strike, despite the official warning that very harsh measures would be taken, have contributed to increasing the peoples' discontent. The electricity union, for example, held a rally supporting two punished, high-ranking employees. Many employees accompanied their fellow workers to the building's exit chanting antigovernment slogans and promising resistance and a fight for their reinstatement.

The punishments and inquests in other public offices also contributed to worsening the atmosphere of discontent, and rumors are already being spread that another strike will be held next week. This time it is said that it will be a 48-hour strike.

According to interviews by this correspondent at various social levels, the workers in general loudly voice their total disagreement with the government on the economic situation that they are enduring and on the increasingly severe restrictions imposed by the government.

Political sources, who assert they are familiar with the military mechanism, have said that the fear that the regime will remain in power for longer than promised increased with the appointment, on Thursday, of a new Army commander. According to these sources the new commander, General Pedro Aranco, is closely linked to President Alvarez who -- according to the same circles -- wishes to remain in power beyond 1 March 1985, which is the date set by the Armed Forces to return the government to civilians.

So far there is no information on the changes to be made in the four military regions, especially in the 1st Military Region, which is located in Montevideo and is the most powerful one. Those who are acquainted with the military mechanism assert that the changes will give a clearer picture of the future posts at stake. The sources added that Aranco's speech, when he replaces Commander Boscan Hontou on 1 February, will also give a better picture of the return to a state of law. Aranco, who will be promptly replaced because of his seniority when he retires in July, is also a reason for speculation with political circles.

In the meantime, three magazines were confiscated last night for publishing information included in the new list of restrictions on the media. The issues of three more weeklies are currently being analyzed by the censors in order to determine whether they are fit to be placed on the street.

Argentine citizen Raul Kraiselburd, vice president of the Inter-American Press Association [SIP] today initiated a series of meeting with the main leaders of the Uruguayan media. For some time now the SIP has been demanding that restrictions on the freedom of press in Uruguay be lifted. The Uruguayan newspapers, radio, and television stations have had to refrain since Thursday from issuing any political information or commentaries or anything referring to the labor situation.

LABOR MINISTRY GRANTS APPROVAL TO 26 LABOR UNIONS

PY210122 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Jan 84

[Text] The Labor and Social Action Ministry has today confirmed the approval of the creation of 26 labor unions. It was also noted that elections were called by the ministry for the executive boards of six other labor unions.

CENSORED WEEKLIES AGAIN ALLOWED TO CIRCULATE

PY210249 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Jan 84

[Text] After being subjected to goverment censorship, the weeklies JAQUE and OPINAR have been allowed to circulate. Radio Carve tonight learned that an emergency 24-page issue of JAQUE, a weekly of the Colorado Party's independent Batlle-led movement, will circulate tomorrow. The weekly OPINAR, which was reprinted, will also circulate tomorrow. An emergency issue of ASAMBLEA magazine, which has also been allowed to circulate, will be sold tomorrow.

Further on Papers

PY212334 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 21 Jan 84

[Text] Four weeklies that were subjected to advance censorship are now on sale in the Uruguayan capital. They are JAQUE, CORREO DE LOS VIERNES, OPINAR, and ASAMBLEA. The first hit the streets with a 24-page emergency issue, while CORREO had to cancel four pages. The publishers of the weekly LA DEMOCRACIA have announced that it will not be published as long as the present news media policy is in force.

SALVADORAN FOREIGN MINISTER MAKES BRIEF VISIT

PA212019 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Jan 84

[Interview with Salvadoran Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena by Julio Miller in Panama City on 20 January -- recorded, broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Chavez Mena] ... I am here strictly on a private visit. I am just passing through. I arrived yesterday for purely personal reasons. However, since I have a personal friendship with them, I took the opportunity to say hello to General Noriega and to the foreign minister.

[Miller] It has been officially reported that you held private talks with Gen Noriega and with General William Richardson. Is this true?

[Chavez Mena] As I said, we had a talk. As I was in Panama, I called him and he very kindly met with me for a very general conversation. We did not discuss anything specific.

[Miller] What about the talk with Gen Richardson, who is also visiting Panama?

[Chavez Mena] No, I have not held talks with him.

[Miller] What is your view of the Contadora Group at this time, when the Central American crisis is growing worse?

[Chavez Mena] As I have said, I think that the Contadora Group has acquired greater dynamism with the creation of the commissions this month. This will provide the means for the necessary technical studies, and we must now wait for the results of those commissions.

[Miller] Will the elections in your country solve your internal problems?

[Chavez Mena] I think that the elections are part of a democratic process that will lead to a political solution.

[Miller] How long do you think Central America can continue with yet more talks and negotiations?

[Chavez Mena] I can tell you that we must do everything possible and support all efforts to create political detente, to seek peace, and to achieve a democratic solution in each of the Central American countries. The important thing is that we establish democracy in Central America.

GEN NORIEGA REITERATES COMMITMENT FOR ELECTIONS

PA212031 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Jan 84

[Report on a press conference held by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Panamanian National Defense Forces; questions by correspondents Julio Miller and Jorge Concepcion; date and place of press conference not given]

[Text] Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega said today that there is a firm commitment for the successful completion of the presidential elections scheduled for May 1984. In his first statement to the press following the release of the Defense Forces' communique on the dangers involved in an amendment to the electoral law, the Defense Forces' commander said:

[Begin recording] [Noriega] The Defense Forces' communique on electoral law amendments was an historic statement. The document's principles and doctrine had been previously discussed with the president and were later drafted and presented to the public. The document includes three basic points that comprise our institution's doctrine for the May elections.

The Defense Forces made a commitment to the Panamanian people, so the elections will be held in May. Our support of Panamanians is and will be complete because the people need it. They need the peace that is a part of development. The people will exercise their right to vote and we will help them to successfully achieve this goal. The communique also notes that we are a part of Panamanian society. We have an historic responsibility. Among the solutions for democratization, one cannot forget the triangle that is formed by the political parties, the Panamanian people, and the armed forces, which form the apex of the triangle.

[Miller] General, how do you view the National Legislation Council's proposal on the electoral reforms following the Electoral Tribunal's statement that if the reforms are approved, there will not be enough time to hold the elections?

[Noriega] I would like to be respectful, so as to avoid confusion or suspicious interpretations. I very respectfully decline to answer and I will let the Electoral Tribunal, the National Elections [as heard] Council, and the central government decide on this problem.

[Concepcion] How will this support for the electoral process be expressed?

[Noriega] Our support is both real and effective. Plans are worthless if they are not implemented. It is up to us to actually do the work. [end recording]

ARIAS NAMED AUTHENTIC PANAMENIST PARTY CANDIDATE

PA230311 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0200 GMT 23 Jan 84

[Text] Doctor Arnulfo Arias Madrid has accepted a nomination as presidential candidate in the upcoming May elections. The three-time president of Panama, Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid, was unanimously chosen tonight during a meeting of the Authentic Panamenist Party's national directorate, advisory board, and provincial directorate representatives held in Panama City.

A report on contacts between Authentic Panamenist Party, Christian Democratic Party, MOLIRENA [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement], and Popular Action Party members was presented at the meeting. These contacts were aimed at organizing an opposition alliance. Since no agreements were reached during these contacts, the Authentic Panamenist Party decided to withdraw because it considered Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid's candidacy imperative and not negotiable. Dr Arias' candidacy to the presidency is the only guarantee of a victory to save the country, Hildebrando Nicosia, secretary general of the Authentic Panamenist Party, said.

Nicosia revealed that the Christian Democratic Party, MOLIRENA, and the Popular Action Party tried to impose not only their candidates but also their government platforms. Nicosia said that during the negotiations only the Authentic Liberal Party, led by Arnulfo Escalona -- who attended the Authentic Panamenist Party's meeting tonight -- adopted a reasonable attitude, coinciding with that of the Authentic Panamenist Party.

Once he was chosen as candidate to the presidency, Dr Arnulfo Arias announced that banker Carlos Rodriguez would be his running mate as first vice president. Here are Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid's words on accepting the candidacy for next May's presidential elections:

[Begin Arias Madrid recording] You know that we are merely puppets on a small stage, on this earth. Although we have a certain amount of free will, most of us depend on the intelligence that our fathers, grandfathers, and forefathers bequeathed to us. Therefore, I am not here merely because I want to be. Instead, I am the instrument of even greater forces. You are that force, you have told me I will be president, and so it will be. [shouts and applause] [end recording]

LEFTIST PARTIES DISCUSS PLANS FOR UNIFICATION

PA211831 Panama City YA in Spanish 21 Jan 84 pp 16, 12

[By Lisette Carrasco]

[Text] Despite the differences among the communist-oriented People's Party [PP], the Revolutionary Party of the Workers [ ], and the Workers Socialist Party, [PST[, these parties have agreed to form a political alliance for the 1984 elections, provided such an alliance is based on a political plan representing the views of all three parties.

At a lengthy meeting on 18 January in the Gil Blas Tajeira Auditorium at the University of Panama the parties announced their respective stances regarding the various aspects of Panamanian politics. PST member Professor Jose Cambra said that before negotiating the three parties' alliance, a single candidacy must be considered, which will be based on the defense of the Central American revolution, full independence from imperialist-oriented governments, and political activities that will orient their members.

In turn, PP member Dr Cleto Souza indicated that Panama's left will never be voted into office, adding: "For this reason, the first step in beginning a socialist revolution is organizing national liberation." The PP representative said that the PP would negotiate only on this condition. In addition, PRT member Egbert Wetherborne pointed out that both the PST and the PP should discuss the government plan of the United People's Electoral Front, because be believes that this group best represents Panama's social sectors. Wetherborne added that if his party does not reach an agreement with the other two, the PRT would try to achieve unification through alternate means.

RESOLUTION ISSUED ON U.S. VEHICLE INCIDENT

PA211646 Panama City YA in Spanish 21 Jan 84 pp 1, 12

[Text] The Panama University's academic council has declared that "the presence of U.S. military vehicles on the university campus is unacceptable." The council issued a resolution yesterday reaffirming "its pledge to defend and guarantee university autonomy and, consequently, the principle of the inviolability of the institution's premises and ancillary buildings."

The resolution refers to the 18 January arrival of three U.S. military vehicles on the university campus without authorization from the rector or any other qualified authority, which provoked tension among a group of students and led to the destruction on Via Bolivar of one of the vehicles identified as "U.S. Army" property.

The resolution, signed by Dr Ceferino Sanchez, the university rector, and Professor Jorge R. Arosemena, council secretary, rejects "the use of violence, particularly on the university campus, as it endangers the university's autonomy, which must be defended." In addition, it orders a thorough investigation of the causes of the incidents that took place at the university on the night of 18 January, "to determine who was responsible."

Columnist Condemns Incident

PA211827 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Jan 84 p 10-A

["Without Rhyme or Reason" column by Mario J. de Obaldia]

[Text] When the driver of a U.S. Government vehicle, desiring only to be courteous to a university professor, agreed to her request that he transport a folkloric group, which was to participate in a presentation of cultural music, to our highest house of learning (I daresay it is time that we found a better term for our university), he didn't even suspect that this courteous gesture would almost cost him his life. No one could have imagined that the assistance he was providing would be considered an attack on university autonomy or a foreign invasion of a friendly country by anyone, and particularly not by a group of university students.

Fortunately for both the driver of the vehicle and the passengers, someone with a little bit of sense convinced the students (I suppose we may continue to call them that) that the act of transporting a folkloric group could not be interpreted as a foreign invasion and that it was absurd to compare an act of kindly cooperation with an attempt at armed aggression. Thus, the Hottentots who were howling around the vehicle, moved perhaps by some sort of primitive mercy, allowed the passengers, wearing their traditional costumes, and the driver to get out before setting the vehicle afire before the eyes of the astonished public, who failed to see where the enemy was, what offensive weapons they had, and what their evil intentions were. The attackers shouted that the invaders were in disguise and that they were really U.S. Marines dressed in Panamanian dresses and sandals.

The reports do not indicate what happened to the university professor who had the bad luck to ask the enemy for assistance. I suppose by this time the students must have sought her dismissal from the university as a Yankee-lover and burned her in effigy, accusing her of aiding the enemy on the battlefield.

I suppose that after this heroic feat, which will go down in the annals of our fatherland's history, our glorious university legionnaires will proceed to burn all English textbooks in our alma mater's library, to destroy all U.S.-made microscopes, and to remove all of the U.S. bills from their pockets and shred them to pieces, demonstrating by these noble gestures that they are not only against vehicles, but against anything that represents a foreign cultural invasion, which is far worse than any armed invasion could be.

We have advanced, but our struggle continues; we will not have won total victory until we have Soviet currency in our pockets instead of U.S. bills, until the bookshelves in our schools and libraries are full of works by Soviet authors instead of English textbooks, and until we have Soviet medicine in our laboratories and hospitals instead of the discredited U.S. medicine. Then, and only then, may we say: "Mission accomplished, General Torrijos. Just as you kept your promise to us, we have not let you down."

'Corrective Measures' Needed

PA221503 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 21 Jan 84 p 4

[Article by Julito Ortega: "Danger at the University"]

[Text] The recent unpleasant incidents that took place at the University of Panama should prompt the implementation of corrective measures at our highest institute of learning. Once again we have been made aware of the dangerous politicking and ideological penetration that threatens the country's tranquillity and hinders the efficient educational development of our future professionals.

The acts of vandalism, aggression, and intimidation promoted by a communist-led minority do not constitute sufficient guarantees of the climate that our country expects and needs at the university for its higher education and research. They only besmirch our university, both here and abroad. The people demand the necessary guarantees for students, professors, administrative personnel, and visitors to the university campus, and the avoidance of all acts of violence, murder, and embarrassing situations that undermine confidence in the university.

With the elections just a few months away, the communist groups that rule the university campus are committing all sorts of outrages and are going unpunished. Neither the university authorities nor the national government shows signs of taking any steps to curb such behavior. The latest acts of threats, intimidation, and vandalism seem to prove that today it is dangerous for anyone to visit the university who, for whatever reason, has identified himself as democratic and who has the courage to oppose the communist role in promoting Soviet expansionism.

Violence generates more violence. If we want to maintain the climate of peace and tranquillity that we now enjoy, the national government and university officials should guarantee a climate of respect and authority. If not, given our political situation, reactions may take place that would destroy our national peace, leading us to the path of violence, with unforeseen consequences.

BRIEFS

PROVINCIAL RADIO STATIONS -- By the end of 1983 the city of Chitre, Herrera Province, was enjoying a total of 12 [as published] radio stations. They are: FM stations Estereo Presidente, Estereo Ritmo, Super Hit, and Radio Diez, and AM stations Radio Reforma, Radio Republica, La Exitosa, Radio Provincias, Radio Tropical, Onda Tropical, Radio Nacional, Radio Ritmo, and Circuito RPC Chitre. [Summary] [Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 6 Jan 84 p 9-A PA]

COSTA RICA

U.S. ENGINEERS' ARRIVAL MEETS 'NEW DELAYS'

PA201928 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Jan 84

[Text] The arrival of a contingent of U.S. military engineers who were to carry out several tasks on the infrastructure as part of their social service has met with new delays. Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez has explained that the plan must be restructured now that the government has decided not to let them reside in the northern part of the country, where they were to build the Canas-Upala road. Security reasons and a desire to avoid misinterpreration by Nicaragua have been mentioned as the reasons for this decision.

The government has decided that the work that the U.S. engineers are to carry out must be concentrated in the southern part of the country, beginning in San Isidro del General. One of their major tasks will be the construction of San Isidro Dominical Road, which is so urgently needed. Other jobs will be carried out in Corredores, Cotobruz, Sosa, Golfito, and other cantons.

Although the U.S. engineers would undertake purely civilian projects, the executive branch has decided to request a permit from the Legislative Assembly. According to Foreign Minister Gutierrez, since their work is to be carried out in the south, there will be no problems with the deputies, and the country will benefit from the work performed by the Americans. However, there is the possibility that the U.S. Government might change its plans because of the delay, since the ship bringing the engineers and their equipment was scheduled to leave an American port on 25 January. The negotiation of the details of the military engineers' arrival in our country were still underway today with U.S. Embassy personnel.

The government decided not to let the U.S. engineers be quartered in the area of Upala for the security both of our country and of the Americans themselves. Nicaragua's nervousness upon seeing U.S. soldiers a mere 10 km from their border might lead to disturbances. This was the reason for stopping the construction of the Canas-Upala road and other projects that are important to the development of the northern part of our country.

These teams of military engineers engage in civilian projects for military purposes, such as determining how long it takes them to complete a project on the infrastructure.

EL SALVADOR

MURDER SUSPECT TURNED OVER TO MILITARY COURT

PA201741 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1954 GMT 19 Jan 84

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 19 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- Captain Eduardo Ernesto Avila, accused of having connections with the "death squads," has been turned over to a military judge, although the charges against him have not been reported. Official sources today confirmed that the captain was transferred to a military court on the same day that he completed a month under military arrest for not appearing before the General Staff when ordered to do so.

The Salvadoran officer has been accused of being connected with the 1981 murders of David Pearlman and Michael Hammer, two U.S. agricultural advisers, and Rodolfo Viera, president of the Salvadoran reform organization.

Though the new charges against Capt Avila have not been officially stated, his uncle, Ricardo Vila Moreira, vice president of the Supreme Court, believes that he was turned over to military jurisdiction on the same charge, disobedience of orders, for which he was sentenced a month ago by a civilian judge.

According to Avila Moreira, the United States is applying pressure to keep Capt Avila in prison "because they (the embassy) believe that Capt Avila knows who issued the order to murder the two U.S. citizens and the Salvadoran official in 1981, but that is absolutely false." Military spokesmen have promised to issue an official communique soon on the reasons for the officer's continued detention.

COPREFA on Captain Avila

PA202319 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Jan 84

[Text] Colonel Ricardo Cienfuegos, chief of the Armed Forces Press Committee [COPREFA], held a news conference yesterday [19 January] for the foreign press. Col Cienfuegos spoke of the arrest of Captain Avila.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] What is Capt Avila's situation?

[Cienfuegos] I want to say that our Armed Forces have two categories -- active and reserve officers. The active officer is always ready to be called at any moment. On the active duty roster we have a classification called inactive at the disposal of the General Staff, which means that he is available to be called or is at the disposal of the high command.

Captain Avila served his 30-day sentence, which was imposed for leaving the country without the consent of the high command. However, it was considered possible that his crime violated our code of military justice in some other way. A military judge has been appointed to determine whether he violated the code of military justice. The judge will determine whether a violation was committed and will then decide what punishment should be dealt or what will be done with him. [end recording]

At the same news conference, Col Cienfuegos said that on 16 January there was a meeting among the chiefs of the Armed Forces public relations offices of El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala in Guatemala City. He said this was done to adopt joint actions among the press offices of the three countries. Col Cienfuegos also summarized the Armed Forces' activities over the last few days:

[Begin recording] [Cienfuegos] The general situation is that the Armed Forces carried out patrol operations in December of both short- and long-range scope. These lasted 2 or 3 days, depending on the situation. We carried out and are now carrying out operations in Morazan, Chalatenango, Cabanas, Usulutan, Santa Ana, and San Vicente Departments, especially in San Vicente Department. The results of many of these have been very good for the Armed Forces, but the terrorists have been relatively inactive. We know they must be preparing something for the forthcoming sessions of the U.S. Congress. Therefore, it is important to stay alert during the period that Congress is in session, especially when it is discussing matters related to El Salvador. This is the general situation.

[Question indistinct]

[Cienfuegos] Well, we have been patrolling all over Chalatenango Department and, as I said a moment ago, the guerrillas cannot hold any part of the national territory. The Armed Forces have the capacity to go anywhere. However, this does not mean that the guerrillas cannot take action at any time, because they have the factor of surprise on their side, and the Armed Forces have too much that they are responsible for covering every day. [end recording]

Another journalist asked Col Cienfuegos about the discussions regarding possible joint action of the Honduran, Guatemalan, Salvadoran, and U.S. Armed Forces in Central America. Col Cienfuegos said he had no knowledge of this, and that this would be a high-level decision. A U.S. journalist asked Col Cienfuegos about death squad activities. To this he replied:

[Begin Cienfuegos recording] He [not further identified] asked me what other measures would be taken against the death squads. I told him that the defense minister's decisions have been very clear, that he is very aware this is a necessity for the country, and that he is seeing to it that his decisions are complied with to the letter. [end recording]

OFFICIALS BERATE 'MISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN'

Treasury Police Director

PA211614 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 20 Jan 84 pp 3, 56

[Text] "The misinformation campaign to discredit El Salvador has been intensified in the United States, probably for the purpose of tarnishing our country's democratic process," Treasury Police Director Colonel Nicolas Carranza said yesterday. Carranza said that those who cooperate in some way with the terrorist organizations and with international communism have now resorted to using illogical and senseless arguments in order to continue something that they began a little over 4 years ago in the hope of confusing the U.S. public, U.S. Government officials, and those Salvadorans who reside in the United States about the current situation in El Salvador.

"Those collaborators, some knowingly and others unknowingly, have recently attacked the Armed Forces once again, acting without hesitation to implicate officers of all ranks in crimes that exist solely in their own minds, for when the time comes to provide proof they cannot do so," he said. Carranza also referred to the negative actions of a former U.S. ambassador to El Salvador, who heads one of those movements and who has been making reckless charges, for which he must answer in the appropriate courts in due time.

COPREFA on FMLN

PA212322 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Jan 84

[News bulletin issued by the Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA -- date and place not given]

[Text] The misinformation campaign being waged by the FMLN and its masters has caused great harm to the Salvadoran people. However, the publicizers of terror have recently given their imaginations such a free rein and have disseminated a number of lies so contradictory that they have made the FMLN's own propaganda apparatus, some naive or romanticized media, and, worst of all, their alma mater Radio Moscow, all look ridiculous.

The powerful Soviet station took the bait in its Tuesday, 17 January broadcasts when it reported that the rebels had freed political prisoners from Chalatenango's prison. Everyone knows that no political prisoners were being held there. Another faux pas was made by a clandestine station, which reported on the very day of the disastrous Chalatenango operation, that the rebels had recovered 30 M-16 rifles at Las Mercedes bridge. The lie was exposed when it was confirmed that bridge security guards do not use such weapons. The following day the same station again reported the story, but said that only 10 M-16 rifles had been recovered, which is also a big lie. Of course, there were other details of the report that could not stand up to the slightest scrutiny, such as the alleged destruction of three armored personnel carriers and other such claims.

Finally, the misinformation system was unable to cover up the devastating blow the Army inflicted on the terrorist battalion. This time the rebel war bulletins failed to mention the hundreds of dead that the rebels sustained in their crazy Chalatenango adventure.

The excess of unbridled lies has boomeranged on the terrorist propaganda. Its only result, on the one hand, is the awakening of all the romantics and the naive, and on the other hand -- and what is worse for them -- it is earning the terrorists a strong reprimand from their alama mater.

REPORTAGE ON NEWSMEN MISSING IN REBEL TERRITORY

New COPREFA Security Regulations

PA220123 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 20 Jan 84 p 3

[Text] As a result of speculation that sprung up 2 nights ago regarding the fate of several correspondents and cameramen in the vicinity of Santa Rita, Chalatenango Department, Colonel Ricardo Aristides Cienfuegos has said that "to avoid future risks, for which the Armed Forces will not be held responsible, the Armed Forces Press Committee [COPREFA] makes the following recommendations to all newsmen:

"1. Always keep your (COPREFA-issued) identification card handy.

"To avoid confusion and the misuse of press credentials, COPREFA announces:

"a. Presentation of credentials, not letters issued by the news agency for which each newsman works, will be required.

"b. The only valid national credentials that will be accepted by the Armed Forces will be those issued by COPREFA.

"c. Other noninstitutional identification will not be accepted as credentials.

"d. The COPREFA-issued 1983 press credentials will expire on 28 February 1984, which is the deadline for renewal of such credentials.

"e. Newsmen will be able to obtain their COPREFA press credentials on 23, 24, 25, 30, and 31 January and on 1, 6, 7, and 8 February 1984.

"2. If you are planning to move around in areas of conflict, notify COPREFA beforehand, so that area commanders will be aware of your presence in the area.

"3. In areas of conflict, your vehicle as well as its occupants must carry visible press identification.

"4. Follow instructions given by the area commander. If you do not, you will be taking risks for which El Salvador's Armed Forces will not be held responsible.

"5. Since some newsmen have suffered mishaps in areas of conflict, we request that you heed instructions issued by the area commanders and COPREFA. Otherwise, the Armed Forces absolves itself of responsibility for any resulting incident.

"6. The Armed Forces will do everything within its power to ensure your personal security while you are in the country."

Armed Forces Report

PA201943 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Jan 84

[Communique released by the Armed Forces Press Committee, date and place not given]

[Text] Three journalists have been kidnapped by terrorists in Chalatenango. UPI journalist Raul Beltran Bonilla, (Pedro Garcia), and (Wilfredo Perez), employed by the NBC -- both American companies -- have been missing for at least 48 hours in the northern part of Chalatenango Department, where the FMLN terrorists have established their camps near the Honduran border.

The prolonged disappearance of these three journalists has caused both their coworkers and the Salvadoran public to fear that they may have been kidnapped by terrorists in an effort to keep them from publishing information unfavorable to the FMLN. It is worth noting that the three men went to that area to check on the existence of 107 bodies of terrorists killed in clashes with troops from the 4th Infantry Brigade at El Paraiso.

A large number of foreign correspondents left today for Santa Rita, located 70 km north of San Salvador, in Chalatenango Department, to get first hand information on the fate of their three colleagues and, if necessary, to demand that the terrorists release the virtually-kidnapped journalists.

The Salvadoran Armed Forces General Staff has alerted the command offices of the 4th Infantry Brigade and of Military Detachment No 1 of this situation and has instructed them to provide all possible assistance in locating the missing journalists.

COPREFA Reports Newsmen Freed

PA210342 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Jan 84

[News bulletin issued by the Armed Forces Press Committee in San Salvador; date not given]

[Text] UPI and NBC correspondents Raul Beltran Bonilla, Pedro Garcia, and Wilfredo Perez, who were kidnapped by FMLN terrorist bands on Wednesday near the border in Chalatenango Department, have been freed thanks to a negotiating committee made up of foreign correspondents. The three newsmen are safe in San Salvador.

Press sources reported that the foreign correspondent corps in El Salvador promised the terrorists to keep the kidnapping a secret and not to release or publish any information obtained during the kidnapping that might damage the FMLN's image. The negotiating committee was led by UPI correspondent (Michael Druze), and was made up of other correspondents.

Meanwhile, a Salvadoran reporter was attacked this morning at the Camino Real Hotel in San Salvador by U.S. correspondent (Timothy Logan) of TIME magazine, when the Salvadoran newsman attempted to interview the negotiators on the kidnapping upon their arrival at the hotel. The foreign newsman took the Salvadoran newsman's camera from him and exposed the film.

Further on Release

PA210219 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0205 GMT 21 Jan 84

[Text] San Salvador, 20 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- Three newsmen who had spent 4 days in an area controlled by the Salvadoran guerrillas in the northern Department of Chalatenango returned to San Salvador this afternoon. According to the newsmen, they were held by rebels for entering a military zone without permission. The guerrillas later contacted their rebel commanders, after which the newsmen were allowed to leave. The three Salvadoran newsmen work for U.S. media.

They said that around noon on Tuesday they were in Chalatenango checking out a Defense Ministry report claiming that more than 100 bodies of guerrillas were buried in a canton near the town of Santa Rita. The Salvadoran Army and the guerrillas were engaged in fierce clashes about 5 days ago near the city of Chalatenango. The Air Force bombed the areas near Santa Rita, claiming to have killed more than 100 leftist rebels.

Last night Commander Salvador Guerra, third in command of the Farabundo Marti People's Liberation Forces (FPL), a member organization of the FMLN, arrived at the guerrilla camp and promised the three newsmen that they could return today to San Salvador.

FMLN: Newsmen Dispute COPREFA

PA211618 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 21 Jan 84

[Text] The three newsmen who were allegedly kidnapped have contradicted the Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA. Newsmen Pedro Garcia, Wilfredo Perez, and Raul Beltran have denied the COPREFA report that they had been kidnapped by the FMLN in Chalatenango Department.

According to the COPREFA report, the FMLN had kidnapped the newsmen in order to prevent them from reporting on the guerrillas' situation in Chalatenango, but once again COPREFA's daily output of lies and misinformation has been unmasked, for the newsmen told the media that they are free and that they had no problems with the FMLN's forces.

Farabundo Marti: Newsmen Bare 'Lies'

PA221650 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 22 Jan 84

[Text] Both the local and foreign press have again realized that Colonel Ricardo Aristides Cienfuegos spreads lies. The group of correspondents who came to Chalatenango looking for 107 bodies of guerrillas found neither the bodies nor their military equipment in the Santa Rita area.

For security reasons, the group of 14 newsmen, which initially consisted of only 3, stayed at an FMLN guerrilla camp in this department for 2 nights. During their stay, the local and foreign newsmen were able to talk with the fighters and commanders of our vanguard battalions. The newsmen talked directly with Companero Commander Salvador Guerra, who came to the military camp.

Despite all of the blustering and childish [word indistinct] by the Armed Forces Press Committee [COPREFA], led by the [word indistinct] Colonel Cienfuegos, the newsmen were able to leave the area under our political and military control here in Chalatenango without problems.

The newsmen fulfilled their mission, which is to seek the truth, to search out the news where events take place. They were prompted by reports spread by Colonel Cienfuegos, who hastily reported that the demoralized Armed Forces had inflicted 107 casualties on our battalions.

We warn that COPREFA is making intensive use of local stations and newspapers to spread its ridiculous and shameful lies, caring not at all about the time and space it is stealing from these media. At the same time, it is hindering the work of local and foreign newsmen; COPREFA forces them to spread its lies about alleged victories by the puppet Army and defeats allegedly inflicted on the FMLN.

If COPREFA wishes to disseminate its twisted communiques, it should reinstall its poisonous radio station, to avoid inconveniencing newsmen and the media. We again call on local and foreign newsmen to avoid letting themselves be intimidated or threatened while carrying out their work. We also call on all newsmen, newspapers, and radio and television stations to report the truth always, from the site of the events, and not to allow themselves to be deceived by the misleading bulletins issued by Colonel Cienfuegos.

You have a professional job to do for our people and the peoples of the world. Doing it thoroughly, bravely, and honestly at a time when we Salvadorans are engaged in a war against Yankee intervention, the local oligarchy, and its servile high command is an honor.

REPORTAGE ON GOVERNMENT, REBEL MILITARY ACTIVITY

Army Launches Usulutan Operation

PA211552 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 20 Jan 84 pp 2, 26

[Text] A communique issued by the Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA, reports that the "Well-Being for Usulutan" operation begins today with the purpose of guaranteeing residents of Usulutan Department the right to live in peace. The report indicates that in addition to seeking peace for the inhabitants, this operation will try to renew and to rebuild all locations that have been affected by terrorism through the National Commission for Reconstruction of Affected Areas, CONARA.

To this end, a peace force under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Julio Cesar Yanez Lopez, commander of the 6th Infantry Brigade in Usulutan, has been created to provide the necessary physical security to achieve the following general objectives:

1. To provide humanitarian aid to the residents of Usulutan Department who have been displaced from their homes as a result of terrorist violence.

2. To reestablish the basic public services in all towns in that department.

3. To reactivate job sources in both urban and rural areas, including agricultural areas in reformed and nonreformed sectors.

4. To revive the moral, ethical, religious, and cultural values that the terrorists have tried to destroy with their Marxist-Leninist teachings.

COPREFA adds: Since the Armed Forces high command is aware of all the current problems and suffering of the people of Usulutan, it has decided that the Armed Forces will remain in that department as long as is necessary to ensure that the various institutions that comprise CONARA can carry out their work for the well-being of all of the communities there.

COPREFA indicated that the people of Usulutan Department have been asked to provide all necessary support and cooperation to the peace force, so that the peace and progress that is so greatly needed for our country's current democratic process can be achieved.

FMLN Announces Usulutan Actions

PA211653 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 21 Jan 84

[Text] Units from the FMLN's Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade [BRAZ] have successfully launched a campaign of attrition against the dictatorship's forces, in Usulutan Department, where they have initiated yet another of their many operations. Our forces have begun to inflict casualties on the Atlacatl, Atonal, and Arce special battalions and cavalry forces that are participating in the Usulutan Department operation. Since 1000, BRAZ forces have been fighting in Usulutan Department, weakening the dictatorship's demoralized forces.

As part of our plan to erode the dictatorship's special forces, fighting has taken place in the area of Jucuapa and San Agustin in Usulutan Department. BRAZ units seized two U.S.-made rifles and one military radio from the Atlacatl Battalion in today's fighting.

In today's clashes in Usulutan Department, the FMLN's forces also inflicted casualties on the special battalions, which dared to place their genocidal boot on Usulutan Department. We repeat: In the initial battles, we seized two rifles and a military radio from the Atlacatl Battalion's genocidal forces. Our forces will continue to wear down and to strike at the dictatorship's forces in this operation in Usulutan until they are defeated.

Clash on Pan American Highway

PA211750 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 21 Jan 84

[Text] On Wednesday, 18 January, forces belonging to the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade and revolutionary militias seized control of the Pan American Highway at the turnoff to Jucuapa. Their military control of that portion of the highway began at 0700 and lasted until 1300. Passengers in vehicles on the Pan American Highway showed great sympathy for our cause which they expressed in their generous economic cooperation.

The enemy showed up at 1200, at which time our forces clashed with an enemy patrol coming from San Miguel. The clash took place between the turnoff to Chinameca and the turnoff to Jucuapa. [Lieutenant Colonel] Domingo Monterrosa's patrol was surprised by our companeros, who inflicted four casualties on the enemy. The enemy fled in disarray and was subsequently supported by a helicopter gunship that opened fire indiscriminately on the civilian population. This report was sent from the Pan American Highway area by ompanero Cain. We extend our revolutionary greetings to these forces and to the militias that have been active on the Pan American Highway.

Army Reports Rebel Casualties

PA220032 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1700 GMT 21 Jan 84

[News bulletin issued by the Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA; date and place not given]

[Text] The Armed Forces Press Committee [COPREFA] informs the citizenry in general that five guerrillas were killed and that the Army has recovered weapons. Two FMLN terrorists have been killed in San Jose Segundo canton, San Bartolome Perulapia, in Cuscatlan Department, 21 km west of San Salvador.

The fatalities occurred when units of the immediate reaction Ramon Belloso Battalion surprised a terrorist column moving in the area. Many rebels were wounded and two M-16 rifles and three cartridge clips were recovered in the action.

Meanwhile, three other rebels were killed when a 3d Infantry Brigade military patrol surprised them at Las Marias farm, in the Chinameca and Jucuapa area, 122 km east of San Salvador. Three M-16 rifles and their cartridge clips were recovered in the action. In both actions, only one soldier of the Ramon Belloso Battalion was wounded.

Army, Guerrilla Clashes

PA220213 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1700 GMT 21 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Morazan, San Miguel, La Union, and Usulutan Departments were without electricity after leftist guerrillas destroyed high tension wires last night. In Santiago de Maria Province, Usulutan Department, military sources today confirmed that last night and early this morning rebels attacked the military contingent posted near Santiago de Maria and some detachments in the hills surrounding the city. Military sources also confirmed that the Armed Forces suffered no casualties in the attack, stating that rebel casualties were unknown.

In San Juan Opico Province, La Libertad Department, two soldiers were killed and others in their unit suffered injuries when rebels ambushed a small Army patrol last night, according to a brief military report.

In Aguilares Province, San Salvador Department, members of a family were murdered by presumed leftist guerrillas. Official reports state that the family was killed because its members had been singled out as Salvadoran Armed Forces collaborators. Reports issued today by the Aguilares military command state that the family was forced out of its home, taken to a riverbank, and killed by the presumed leftists.

In Cuscatlan Department, the San Rafael Cedros electric substation was the target of a terrorist attack between midnight and 0400 today. Rebels also entered the small village of San Rafael Cedros, approximately 38 km east of San Salvador. During their incursion in San Rafael Cedros, the rebels killed two Civil Defense members, the only security forces guarding that small Cuscatlan village. The two Civil Defense members were Roberto Escalante and Abel Deras.

Also in Cuscatlan, military reports state that the (Atachin) bridge, approximately 25 km east of San Salvador, was attacked by leftists along the Pan American Highway. Two rebels and four National Guardsmen who were defending the bridge were killed in the confrontation early this morning, according to military reports.

Bombing of Civilians

PA212258 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 21 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Attention humanitarian organizations monitoring human rights. The dictatorship and the genocidal Army are definitely engaged in a systematic plan of indiscriminately bombing the country's rural areas, where they feel defeated and incapable of obtaining the nonfighting civilian population's sympathy.

At 0630 on 20 January two planes, an A-37 and an F-5 [as heard] bombed the cantons Las Delicias and Corozal. There were no casualties among the civilian population. At 1700 of the same day four A-37 planes bombed the cantons of El Zapote, Mirandilla, Chaparral, and Tenango. The planes dropped 10 250-pound bombs, seriously injuring a 10-year-old boy from El Zapote.

The dictatorship's desperate attitude is the result of its incapacity to respond militarily to FMLN attacks, such as the destruction of the military garrison in El Paraiso and the dynamiting of Cuscatlan Bridge. That is why the dictatorship is using the Air Force to massacre the population.

[Signed] Misael Gallardo

Electrical Substation Attacked

PA221854 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 22 Jan 84

[Text] The FMLN has destroyed the electrical substation at (Atachin) in San Rafael Cedros and has also seized the towns of Santo Domingo and San Rafael Cedros. Here is a report from Cuscatlan Department on the participation in this operation of units from the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade [BRAZ] and the Luis Adalberto Diaz Detachment:

Our forces destroyed the electrical substation at San Rafael Cedros after dislodging units from the 5th Infantry Brigade of San Vicente, which were guarding the substation. The BRAZ and Luis Adelberto Diaz Detachment units simultaneously attacked enemy posts in the towns of Santo Domingo and San Rafael Cedros, dislodging the enemy forces there and recovering their weapons.

Our forces remained in these towns while the (Atachin) electrical substation was being destroyed, since these towns, located near the Pan American Highway, are strategic positions for halting possible enemy reinforcements. The fighting began at 0030 and by 0400 on 21 January everything was under our control. We recovered 10 rifles and a substantial amount of ammunition. A light aircraft and two helicopters strafed the area around the electrical substation at dawn. The enemy suffered six dead and an undetermined number of wounded, while one companero was killed and another was injured on our side.

The operation was staged during a large-scale mobilization of the dictatorship's troops toward the east via the Pan American Highway. When our forces began their actions near their objectives, the Jibao Battalion and the paratroopers' units were (?covering) the troops' path to the east.

Our forces remained in hiding until the troops had passed and the enemy battalions had withdrawn leaving detachments in Santo Domingo and San Rafael Cedros, at which time our forces moved in and launched their victorious attacks.

This operation deals a harsh blow to the dictatorship, which wants to pretend that it is in full control of the situation, while the situation is actually becoming increasingly uncontrollable and the war is advancing in all regards. (?The time will come) when this will lead to the overthrow and total defeat of the dictatorship.

Commander Raul was in charge of this operation, and Companero Commander Ernesto Flores was second in command.

Landing Strip, Planes Destroyed

PA221640 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 22 Jan 84

[War bulletin released in El Salvador by the General Command of the FMLN Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade, BRAZ; date not given]

[Text] The landing strip of Obrajuelo and an Air Force light plane that was standing on the strip, located near the city of San Miguel, were destroyed on the afternoon of 20 January. This landing strip is used primarily by the 3d Infantry Brigade to transfer troops, officers, advisers and members of the high command on their way to the eastern part of the country.

Our intelligence services were fully aware of these movements and on the basis of this information, commando units belonging to the BRAZ' Mario Armijo Special Forces proceeded to mine the landing strip at Obrajuelo. The plan was for the mines to be detonated by a C-47 plane that was to bring in U.S. advisers. Our intelligence services within the dictatorship's armed forces had notified us that on 20 January a Salvadoran Air Force C-47 would bring in an undetermined number of U.S. advisers and high-ranking Salvadoran officers. Apparently by coincidence, an Air Force light aircraft arrived ahead of the C-47 that was to bring in the U.S. advisers and the mines accidentally went off, destroying both the landing strip and the aircraft.

Neither COPREFA nor the Armed Forces have reported this incident, an obvious attempt to conceal their inability to guarantee the security of strategic military positions.

The BRAZ General Command wishes to make these and the following poir s clear:

1. All civilian pilots, private businesses, and airlines are urged to refrain from using any of the landing strips in the east that the Air Force uses, because the FMLN regards these strips as military objectives.

2. We reiterate our determination to fight the U.S. invaders who are already here in El Salvador, as well as those that the Reagan administration may send to our homeland in the future. We will speak to the U.S. advisers who are already in our homeland with the language of weapons. They have invaded our homeland to support the dictatorship and to wage war on our people, so in turn our people will wage war on them.

We will fight until victory, so that the insulting luxuries that the oligarchy enjoys can be turned into welfare for our entire people.

Death to Yankee imperialism! Revolution or death, we will win!

50 Injured in Marketplace Bombing

PA221634 Paris AFP in Spanish 1625 GMT 22 Jan 84

[Text] San Salvador, 22 Jan (AFP) -- It was unofficially reported here that more than 50 people were injured this morning, many of them seriously, when two grenades exploded at the central market in San Martin, 15 km east of San Salvador. The incident took place when many people were shopping in the marketplace. No information has yet been received as to how the attack, which also caused considerable damage, was carried out. Many ambulances are now at the scene of the accident, ferrying people to the nearest hospitals, according to the same unofficial sources.

COPREFA Confirms Bombing

PA221821 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1756 GMT 22 Jan 84

[Text] San Salvador, 22 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- A boy was killed and many civilians were injured this morning when two bombs exploded in the marketplace in San Martin, 18 km east of San Salvador. Official sources told ACAN-EFE that the bombing took place at 0915 (1515 GMT), when the San Martin marketplace was full of Sunday shoppers.

The Armed Forces Press Committee (COPREFA) has reported that one of the bombs went off in a store, where Carlos Eduardo Quintanilla, the son of the owner, was killed. The other bombing took place near the marketplace, injuring at least 16 people, at least 10 of them seriously, according to COPREFA. It was reported unofficially that at least 40 people were injured and were being taken to the nearest hospitals. COPREFA said that the bombs were supposedly placed by guerrillas "in another action intended to boycott the 25 March presidential elections."

FMLN Reports San Miguel Attacks

PA230441 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 23 Jan 84

[Communique issued by the FMLN Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade, BRAZ, in Morazan on 22 January]

[Text] From 2000 on 21 January to 0130 on 22 January, units of the FMLN's BRAZ carried out the "Companero (Carl Ikley), in the Anti-Imperialist Struggle Until Victory" operation. The operation was carried out in the city of San Miguel with the following results:

1. At 2000 our forces occupied the neighborhoods of Vista Hermosa, San Francisco, and Zamoran, located 1 km from the garrison of the 3d Infantry Brigade of San Miguel. While this action was taking place, our units hit a helicopter coming from San Salvador toward the 3d Infantry Brigade at approximately midnight. The helicopter was damaged and forced to return to base. The BRAZ units and political entities remained in those San Miguel neighborhoods for 5 hours. From 2000 to 0100 they held a meeting and other activities with the people of San Miguel.

2. Our forces seized the town of Moncagua, on the outskirts of San Miguel 6 km from the 3d Infantry Brigade. The BRAZ units dislodged the local militiamen in Moncagua and held rallies with the residents.

3. At 0130 BRAZ units destroyed the San Luis coffee mill, the most important in the country's eastern region, where all the coffee of the eastern region had been collected. The San Luis coffee mill is near the town of Moncagua and was guarded by national guardsmen and watchmen. In that action we seized seven rifles and four hunting weapons and captured one national guardsman. The destruction of the San Luis coffee mill constitutes a strategic blow to the dictatorship's economy. The destruction of the electricty substation in San Rafael Cedros in Cuscatlan Department is the second blow to the dictatorship's war economy that the BRAZ has staged in less than 24 hours.

Once again the forces of the 3d Infantry Brigade, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Domingo Monterrosa, showed their total inability, not only to guard the city of San Miguel, but also to react in the face of our actions. Our BRAZ units did not suffer any casualties in these operations.

In this operation in honor of Companero (Carl Ikley), a U.S. internationalist who accompanied our forces in Guazapa and later in Morazan and contributed to our people's struggle with his contributions and his own life, we reaffirmed our determination and capacity to defeat the dictatorship and the U.S. aggressors. Reagan does not have his people's support to attack our fatherland. (Carl Ikley) shows the world that among the U.S. people there are men willing to take up a rifle and give their lives if necessary to make justice. well-being, and freedom a reality for the Salvadoran workers.

Today, 52 years since the dawn of 22 January 1932 when our people, led by Agustin Farabundo Marti, outlined with their heroic blood the path of unyielding struggle that future generations of Salvadoran peasants and workers would follow, our people are winning; they have become a powerful revolutionary army that gives historic continuity to the glorious deeds of 1932. In order to turn the insulting luxury of the wealthy oligarchs into well-being for all our people, we struggle to win! Death to Yankee imperialism! Revolution or death, we will win!

[Signed] General Command of the BRAZ, Morazan, 22 January 1984

FMLN GENERAL COMMAND CALLS OFF PRESS CONFERENCE

PA212150 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1955 GMT 21 Jan 84

[Text] Managua, 21 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- Salvadoran guerrilla representatives today called off a press conference at which they were apparently to denounce plans by the current U.S. Government to invade El Salvador. According to guerrilla sources, the FMLN General Command stated that the U.S. Government plans to invade its country, within the third stage of the joint "Big Pine III" military maneuvers to be held in Honduras.

Ana Guadalupe Martinez, member of the FMLN General Command, was to have held a press conference at the headquarters of the Nicaraguan Committee of Solidarity with the Peoples (CSPN), it was learned in this capital. According to Salvadoran rebel sources, Commander Ana Guadalupe, who is also a member of the FMLN-FDR Political-Diplomatic Commission, arrived here, but for health reasons was unable to appear before newsmen.

A few days ago, Guillermo Ungo, president of the Salvadoran Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR), told the official Nicaraguan radio station that there is "increasing" international awareness that the Salvadoran Government is not only losing the war, but does not have the capacity to defeat the FMLN in the medium term.

Ungo added that in view of this, "we are approaching the critical moment when Reagan will have to opt for committing himself openly with his own troops in El Salvador."

Meanwhile, it could be that Commander Ana Guadalupe was referring to the provisional government platform which the guerrillas have been drafting recently. According to Ungo, that provisional government platform would include "broad pluralist participation," conducive to solving the Salvadoran conflict. According to Ungo, that provisional government might also be conducive to holding "truly free" elections in El Salvador and not a "bloody masquerade" such as the elections scheduled by President Alvaro Magana for 25 March.

GUATEMALA

U.S. OFFICER, GUATEMALANS DIE IN PLANE CRASH

PA220418 Paris AFP in Spanish 0351 GMT 22 Jan 84

[Text] Guatemala City, 21 Jan (AFP) -- This afternoon a U.S. Army officer and 12 Guatemalan soldiers died when an Air Force plane crashed into a mountain north of Guatemala City, according to unofficial reports. A source close to the U.S. Embassy in Guatemala has confirmed the death of the officer, identified as Robert Prescott, who apparently was the military attache at the embassy.

The Guatemalan Army has not issued an official report, but it was announced that the names of the dead will be made public soon, among them several officers.

Initial reports state that the soldiers were flying to Peten Department in an Israeli-manufactured Arava plane, which had problems climbing over the mountain and crashed into it.

The U.S. Embassy has not issued an official statement, but an explanation is expected tomorrow as to why the officer was on the plane. Diplomats and military attaches are constantly being taken into the interior of the country by the Army to observe the situation in the countryside. The Army's public relations office said that the cause of the accident has not been "completely" established yet, but they discarded the possibility that guerrilla action might have been the cause.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON COUP RUMOR,U.S. ENVOY

PA201637 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 19 Jan 84

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Excerpt] The Guatemalan Government has not yet been informed whether U.S. Ambassador Frederic Chapin will be replaced. Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade has said that he knows only what international reports have said on the subject:

[Andrade] "We have no official information on this subject. Unofficially, I know only what you are telling me and what has been reported by international news agencies."

Foreign Minister Andrade was also asked about the possibility of a coup d'etat in Guatemala. He said that he has heard rumors, again reported by international news agencies:

[Andrade] "We have seen a report with a Washington dateline. We believe that a State Department spokesman yesterday said that the U.S. Government would not support any change in Guatemala that does not take place democratically. You know that the Mejia Victores government is committed to an electoral process and to a political opening. We are taking very firm steps to return to a democratic system and to a government of institutions."

Foreign Minister Andrade also announced that tomorrow the government will pass an electoral law that will establish the characteristics of the national constituent assembly. This was announced today, after the political cabinet revised the document:

[Andrade] "The assessment of the electoral law bill is now over, and tomorrow it will be passed."

Mejia Warns Against Coup

PA201646 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2121 GMT 19 Jan 84

[Text] Guatemala City, 19 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- General Oscar Mejia Victores, head of the Guatemalan Government, today warned that if another coup d'etat takes place in Guatemala, "there will be resistance" from different sectors of the country.

General Mejia said at a news conference that "the Guatemalan people would be most affected by another coup d'etat" and warned that his government, with the support of other sectors that he did not identify, "would resist" another coup.

However, Mejia refused to give details as to what kind of resistance would be met by possible coupists, although he did say that "it would not necessarily have to be violent." Mejia labeled anyone who "could be thinking" about another coup d'etat as "blind and unpatriotic."

The Guatemalan head of state said that U.S. opposition to a violent change in Guatemala "demonstrates that our image abroad has changed."

Mejia's statements came 2 days after insistent rumors circulated in Guatemala and the United States that another coup was in the offing.

Arturo Herbruger, president of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, today said that a coup d'etat at the present time "would be terrible for Guatemala."

HONDURAS

TWO BORDER INCIDENTS PROTESTED TO NICARAGUA

PA201446 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 20 Jan 84

[Communique released by the Foreign Secretariat's Information and Press Directorate in Tegucigalpa on 19 January]

[Text] The Honduran Government, through the Foreign Secretariat, has presented a formal protest to the Nicaraguan Government relating to two serious incidents committed by the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] in Honduran territory, in flagrant violation of the most basic principles of peaceful coexistence.

The first of these incidents occurred at 1500 on 7 January in Trincheras, the village of Las Dificultades, El Paraiso Department, where a peasant, Marcelino Balladares Garcia, died as the result of wounds sustained when a mine planted 20 meters from the Honduran border by EPS members exploded.

Balladares Garcia died while collecting firewood. The mine exploded when he stepped on it, killing him instantly.

The following day, 11 January, heavily armed EPS members entered about 1 km into Honduran territory via El Sombrerito, San Marcos de Colon jurisdiction. They went to a farm owned by Carlos Ortiz and tried to confiscate all his cattle, but only managed to take one animal.

In the protest note, Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica reminded Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto Brockman that another mine was planted by the EPS in our territory last year, killing two foreign newsmen, which caused great indignation in international circles.

This time a peasant has been killed. His life is much more valuable to us, because he was a humble citizen. The Honduran Government urges the Nicaraguan Government to cease its attacks on humble Honduran peasants. These attacks only aggravate relations between our countries.

GOVERNMENT DENIES SALVADORAN BORDER INCIDENT

PA201733 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 2130 GMT 19 Jan 84

[News bulletin issued by Secretariat of the Honduran Presidency on 19 January]

[Text] In view of the media reports that Salvadoran soldiers fired on Honduran troops in the area of Amatillo, the government of the republic offers the following clarification:

Several days before the fact, the Salvadoran High Command informed Honduran military authorities that military training exercises would take place near our border on 18 January and that light weapons would be used during these exercises. Therefore, no such attack took place, and there was no return of fire by Honduran troops, as some of the reports incorrectly stated.

In conclusion, we stress that the Honduran Armed Forces are vigilant on both borders and are always on the alert for any eventuality. However, in this specific case, nothing abnormal occurred during these military exercises, which took place on Salvadoran territory.

PAZ BARNICA ON MILITARY BASE, EL SALVADOR

PA201848 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 2130 GMT 19 Jan 84

[Interview with Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica by Douglas Membreno and Danilo Antunez following a Honduran National Security Council meeting at Government House in Tegucigalpa on 19 January; questioners not specifically identified -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] What is our current position on El Salvador, now that a census of Meanguera Island residents will be conducted?

[Paz Barnica] This has already been clarified. We told the press yesterday that the National Registry asked the Foreign Ministry for its opinion on the subject. Then, based on the conclusions of the Mixed Border Commission and the Borders and Sovereignty Commission, a reply was sent to the National Electoral Tribunal. Honduras considers Meanguera a part of its legal and historical heritage; therefore, a census should be taken of all citizens born there.

[Question] Nonetheless, Meanguera's civilian and military authorities are Salvadorans. Don't you think that this census might result in a clash between Honduras and El Salvador?

[Paz Barnica] We'll see how things develop.

[Question] What can you say about the alleged kidnapping of a Honduran peasant by Sandinist troops?

[Paz Barnica] An investigation is underway. We will file a protest through appropriate diplomatic channels.

[Question] What about AFP reports that a military base similar to the one at Guantanamo will be installed in Puerto Castilla, Honduras, to repel threats from Cuba and Nicaragua?

[Paz Barnica] This is untrue. I read these reports in the newspapers, but as far as I know there have only been preliminary studies, and not on the installation of a foreign military base in Honduras, but simply on a center, where none of our sovereignty will be ceded to a foreign country. There have been no formal negotiations; it is only an idea. It is also my opinion that we are going through a period of decolonization in the 20th century; therefore, we should be in favor of this idea.

[Question] Would Honduras agree to the installation of a U.S. military base in Honduras?

[Paz Barnica] The Honduran Government disapproves of the installation of foreign military bases in Central American territory, and has said so in the negotiations being conducted within the Contadora framework.

[Question] Could these informal negotiations end with the establishment of such mixed bases with the United States?

[Paz Barnica] Only if an agreement is reached, for we are involved only in preliminary, tentative talks, nothing formal. In any case, it would be handled exclusively by Hondurans, and we would not relinquish even an inch of our sovereign territory. Still, nothing formal has been done in this context.

[Question] Does this mean that there would be no U.S. military presence at this base?

[Paz Barnica] This is my understanding, except that under current agreements there could be a few trainers. However, if a multilateral and regional solution is found to the Central American conflict within the Contadora framework, we will be the first ones to agree to the withdrawal of all [words indistinct].

[Question] Then, can the possibility that such a military base be installed in Honduras be discarded?

[Paz Barnica] I beg your pardon?

[Question] Couldn't the possibility be discarded... [Paz Barnica interrupts]

[Paz Barnica] [Words indistinct] the installation of a foreign military base in Honduras.

[Question] Will the training of Salvadoran troops in our country continue, despite the serious problems we are having with the Salvadoran Government?

[Paz Barnica] I think that this warrants a serious and conscientious assessment, bearing both Honduran and Central American interests in mind.

[Question] Do you think that Honduras might suspend this training?

[Paz Barnica] It all depends on the circumstances, and on how things develop.

NICARAGUA

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON JOINT U.S.-HONDURAN BASE

PA210152 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0041 GMT 21 Jan 84

[Communique issued by the Information and Press Directorate of the Foreign Ministry on 20 January in Managua; read by Manuel Espinoza of the Foreign Ministry's Public Relations Office]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry reports the following:

The Honduran Armed Forces commander has repeatedly announced the creation of a joint Honduran-U.S. military base in the area of Puerto Castilla, on the Atlantic coast of Honduras. This would be a permanent base, at an approximate cost of $160 million. It is appropriate to mention that the plans to create this kind of joint military installation are being made at a time when the Contadora Group has increased its efforts to achieve a just and negotiated solution to the grave crisis in the Central American region.

These efforts have led to the approval by all the Central American Governments of the Document of Objectives, and the Document of Rules for the implementation of the pledges made in the Document of Objectives. Contradicting the efforts being made to find negotiated solutions to achieve peace in Central America, the U.S. Government continues to impede the Contadora Group's work by advocating an increased militarization of the area and a military solution to the conflicts of the region.

These militarist and aggressive plans of the United States are a complement to the [words indistinct] military infrastructure that the U.S. Administration has provided to the Honduran Government, in order to use that country's Army and territory as a base for aggression against Nicaragua. The U.S. Administration's logistical and military support to the Honduran Government includes carrying out joint military maneuvers that will last indefinitely, outfitting the Honduran military forces, providing technical and financial aid to the Honduran Armed Forces, building military training schools, deploying U.S. military advisers, and directing and financing Somozist mercenaries who operate from Honduras -- with the increasing participation of the Honduran Armed Forces and even the U.S. Armed Forces -- in acts of aggression against Nicaragua.

The Foreign Ministry states its deep concern over these warmongering plans, whose main goal is to provoke Nicaragua and to impede the efforts being made by the Contadora Group, thus representing a real danger to peace and security in Central America.

JUNTA OFFERS GUARANTEES TO RETURNING BISHOP

PA200338 Bluefields Radio Zinica in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Jan 84

[Communique issued by the Press and Information Directorate of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction in Managua on 20 January]

[Text] The Press and Information Directorate of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction informs the Nicaraguan people of the following:

1. Today 20 January, Companero Rene Nunez, secretary of the FSLN National Directorate, Commander Rene Vives, deputy interior minister, and Companero Saul Arana, chief of the Foreign Ministry's North America Department, met with Monsignor Salvador Schlaeffer at the Foreign Ministry to hear the monsignor's report on the Francia Sirpe incident. Also present during the meeting were the priest Gwendoly Chifer and Father Pablo Smith, superior of the Capuchin Order in Central America.

2. During the meeting the bishop said, in essence, the following:

a. None of the priests had any prior information regarding the counterrevolutionary plan in Francia Sirpe; they learned about it when they were awakened by gunfire.

b. The counterrevolutionary armed group allowed them to leave Francia Sirpe and return to Pueblo Cabezas. The counterrevolutionaries warned them that they had mined the wooden bridges along the route, and that they would have to complete work of the journey on foot.

c. They thought about what to do until 0400; it was not until they heard explosions that they decided to accompany the Francia Sirpe residents to offer them spiritual consolation through prayers and the Eucharist. At no time did they lead the group; they only accompanied the Indians throughout the tiring trip.

d. At no time during the march toward Honduras did they observe or become aware of any armed clashes, injuries, military actions, or the firing of rockets. On two occasions they heard the sound of a small plane flying in circle above them.

3. Bishop Schlaeffer took advantage of the meeting to state emphatically that he has never said that the Miskito Indians live in Nazi-style concentration camps in Nicaragua, as has been reported with evil intent in some newspaper articles.

4. Once the bishop's report had been presented, the government delegation told him that despite the political manipulation of the incident by the counterrevolution and the U.S. Government, involving among other things reports of the murder of Miskito Indians and the kidnapping of others in an attempt to link Msgr Schlaeffer to these criminal acts, the Nicaraguan Government would assure him full guarantees to carry out his pastoral duty.

[Dated] Managua, January 1984. Fifty years later, Sandino still lives!

HONDURAS SENT PROTEST ON AIRSPACE VIOLATION

PA210246 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Jan 84

[Text] Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto has sent a protest note to his Honduran counterpart on a recent violation of the Nicaraguan border. The protest note states that on Monday [16 January] a military helicopter with no visible identification entered Nicaraguan airspace through Santa Emilia, Chinandega Department. The protest note adds that in January alone 40 violations of Nicaraguan airspace by Honduran aircraft have been recorded. The Nicaraguan Government emphatically demands an end to these provocations.

FISHING BOAT STOPPED BY HONDURAN COAST GUARD

PA210255 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Jan 84

[Text] The Nicaraguan fishing boat "Pesca 19" was intercepted by five Honduran coast guard vessels on Sunday near Corn Island in Nicaraguan jurisdictional waters. According to Deputy Commander (Jose Gonzalez), the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry representative for northern Zelaya, crewmen from one of the Honduran Coast Guard vessels boarded and interrogated the captain of the Nicaraguan fishing boat. (Gonzalez) added that these provocations are all part of the U.S. strategy aimed at creating a warlike situation between Honduras and Nicaragua that [words indistrinct] with the intervention of U.S. military forces.

PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST LEADER CUNHAL ARRIVES

LD222335 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 22 Jan 84

[Text] PCP [Portuguese Communist Party] Secretary General Alvaro Cunhal arrived in Managua from Cuba today on an official 3-day visit to Nicaragua. Speaking at Sandino Airport, the Portuguese communist leader said that he carries a message of solidarity with the Nicaraguan people's struggle for independence and social progress, from the Portuguese Communist Party. In Cuba Alvaro Cunhal was awarded the country's highest political decoration, the Order of Playa Giron. He is traveling with Jorge Araujo of the PCP's Politburo.

WHEELOCK ON LA PRENSA'S POLITICAL STANCE

PA212020 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Jan 84

[Text] Commander Jaime Wheelock Roman yesterday said that rightist, Yankee-oriented sectors are upset by the political opening offered by the revolution. He assessed reports published by the newspaper LA PRENSA, saying that they reflect the concern of those who oppose the nation. Wheelock added that LA PRENSA will always oppose the progress of the revolution's plans. In his short analysis, Wheelock said:

[Begin recording] A few active, rightist agents hold entirely Yankee-oriented, antinationalist stances. Generally, though, what Nicaragua has is a non-imperialistic, rightist opposition sector.

However, LA PRENSA basically reflects the opinion of the pro-Yankee, counterrevolutionary sector. Other civic oppositionsectors advocate elections and are confident that we will begin an institutionalization process. The pro-imperialist right is deeply upset about our offer of a democratic opening. Our position as the American Continent's true democracy hurts imperialism.

This is a slap in the face to imperialism, oligarchies, and all recalcitrant rightist sectors in Latin America, which have been unable to give Latin Americans an opportunity to achieve development through justice, fairness, and revolutionary changes, primarily with democratic liberties.

Our revolution is known by all to be one that has been consistent in its achievements. Now, because our transformation process has affected the interests of the rightist sector and its main allies, namely the Yankees, they are very upset. [passage indistinct] They are standing guard over a dead man: their hope that we would make the mistake of establishing a dictatorship here. [end recording]

CDS TO INCREASE NUMBER OF GUARDSMEN IN 1984

PA202305 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 16 Jan 84 p 4

[Text] More than 25,000 additional revolutionary guardsmen [vigilantes] will be posted by the Sandinist Defense Committees [CDS] in 1984, Carlos Valle, propaganda secretary of the Managua CDS, has said. Valle said that 127,000 persons are already organized for the CDS guard duty, and that there are plans to direct their activity in 1984 toward strategic objectives in each neighborhood, such as health centers and medical stations, schools, factories, and so forth.

This year there will be more coordination between the CDS and the Sandinist Police because in some neighborhoods the CDS units are not receiving enough support from the police, Valle added. He also said that there will be 24-hour surveillance because statistics show that most crimes take place when there are no revolutionary guardsmen.

Valle said that the CDS activities have brought the nocturnal crime rate down by 90 percent. Valle said in closing that the CDS members have a new task before them: to reintegrate returning exiles into the neighborhoods.

DANIEL ORTEGA INTERVIEWED BY SOVIET TELEVISION

For reportage on a Soviet television interview with Coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Covernment of National Reconstruction Daniel Ortega Saavedra, and his comments on U.S. policies in Central America and Nicaragua in particular, see the Latin America and Caribbean section of the 23 January Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

PORTUGUESE CP LEADER CUNHAL CONTINUES VISIT

Meets With Castro

FL201320 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Jan 84

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee, and Alvaro Cunhal, secretary general of the Portuguese Communist Party, have held official talks. At the meeting, which was held in a fraternal atmosphere, they discussed the principal aspects of the international situation, particularly the problems of Central America and the Caribbean. They also discussed relations between the two parties.

Jorge Araujo, member of the Political Commission of the Portuguese Communist Party, and Jesus Montane, alternate member of the Politburo and the Secretariat and chief of the Central Committee's General Department of Foreign Relations, also held a meeting.

Yesterday, Alvaro Cunhal visited the Aniceto Perez Agriculture and Livestock Production Cooperative in the Municipality of Guira de Melena, Havana Province. The Portuguese leader was interested in the internal functioning of the cooperative, its cultivation and yields, and in all the cultural, sports, and recreational activities of the associates. He said that the experience of Cuba is very good for Portuguese peasants.

Speaks to Workers

FL210039 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 20 Jan 84

[Text] Alvaro Cunhal, general secretary of the Portuguese Communisty Party [PCP], yesterday gave a speech at a friendship and solidarity meeting at a Cuban steel factory in Havana. The Portuguese communist leader told hundreds of steel workers that Cuba represents an extraordinary example of courage, unity, and determination to fight.

Alvaro Cunhal, accompanied by Jaime Crombet, member of the party's Secretariat; Jorge Araujo, member of the PCP's Political Commission and Secretariat; and factory union and political organization leaders toured the factory before the meeting.

The secretary general of the PCP later gave a talk on the present situation in his country, during which he spoke about the counterrevolutionary process taking place in his country which is trying to undo the accomplishments of the 25 April revolution.

BRAVO MEETS WITH L.A. PARLIAMENT DELEGATION

FL201522 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Jan 84

[Text] Flavio Bravo, president of the People's Government National Assembly [ANPP], has received a Latin American Parliament delegation that is visiting our country. In his meeting with the delegation, Flavio Bravo reiterated Cuba's support of the Contadora Group and its efforts for peace in Central America.

(Marco Probano Maya), vice president of the Latin American Parliament and president of its political committee, is heading the group, which was invited by the ANPP.

Both parties pointed out the importance of unity among the Latin American countries to the achievement of peace in Central America and the rest of the continent. They also pointed out U.S. attempts to boycott the Contadora agreements.

Ecuadoran Deputy (Gabriel Nicola), who is a member of the delegation, referred to the interest of his country's president, Osvaldo Hurtado, in elevating Cuban-Ecuadoran relations to the ambassadorial level, which Hurtado announced at a recent press conference in Quito.

Elsewhere in his conversation with the delegation, Flavio Bravo said that it is necessary for any agreement on the Central American region to take into account the Salvadoran people's revolutionary forces. He said it is also necessary to adopt urgent and practical measures to prevent the crime of an imperialist attack on that country and Nicaragua.

The Latin American Parliament delegation that is visiting us is fulfilling a mandate from the political committee. Earlier, it visited Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua.

GRANMA OFFICIAL SUPPORTS L.A. NEWS AGENCY

PA222053 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Jan 84

[Text] Elio Constantin, deputy director of the Cuban newspaper GRANMA, has reiterated Cuba's support of the foundation of the Latin American Agency for Special Information Services [ALASEI]. Constantin was speaking during one of the sessions of the seminar ALASEI's Outlooks, which closed Friday in Caracas, the Venezuelan capital. It was sponsored by regional and international organizations.

Constantin said that Cuba's support of this regional news agency represents the certainty that ALASEI will portray Latin America's reality in the face of distortion by the transnational news agencies. The Cuban journalist said that Cuba and Nicaragua are two victims of news manipulation about their realities, achievements, and transformation processes.

COMMENTARY PRAISES NICARAGUAN JUNTA DECREES

PA220445 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 20 Jan 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Revolutionary Government is taking important steps to institutionalize the country. In December 1983, amnesty decrees were issued allowing the return of thousands of Nicaraguans to their homeland, as well as decrees related to the start of the country's electoral process.

These measures, taken at a time when threats of invasion have intensified, confirm the popular essence and strength of the Sandinist revolution.

The first decree guarantees to all citizens who left the country after 19 July 1979 the right to return to Nicaragua, even if they have taken part in counterrevolutionary activities. Excluded from this measure are the former officers of the dispersed Somozist National Guard, the members of the security forces of the overthrown regime who were involved in repressive acts, and people who have been convicted in court trials.

The other decree provides that the electoral campaign will start on 31 January and conclude in 1985 with elections.

As part of this process, the FSLN presented a draft of the law that will establish the rules for the upcoming elections in Nicaragua to the State Council Electoral Commission. The seven-point proposal specifies that the executive and legislative branches must be elected by direct and secret ballot. It states that the Executive Branch will include the president and vice president, elected for a period of 6 years, as well as the National Legislative Assembly, which will also be empowered to draft a constitution. The assembly, to be comprised of 90 members, one for every 35,000 inhabitants, will have 2 years to draft the constitution of the republic. It will continue to fulfill legislative functions for the next 4 years.

The system proposed by the FSLN is one of electoral representation based on the administrative division of the country into regions, zones, and voting precincts. The FSLN adds that all Nicaraguan citizens over 18 years of age, including the military and churchmen, can vote, but not those convicted of common crimes or crimes against state security.

Another point states that presidential and vice presidential candidates, who will be elected by simple majority, must be at least 25 years old, while the candidates for representative must be over 21 years old.

The draft law that will establish the rules for the upcoming Nicaraguan elections states that a Supreme Electoral Council must direct the entire process. This council must be appointed by the State Council, the Supreme Court of Justice, or both.

Another important aspect of the FSLN draft electoral law is the specification that the state may contribute 0.5 percent of the national budget equally to finance the political parties' campaigns. The FSLN document adds that in due time a media law must be issued that, together with the electoral law, will establish all the guarantees allowing the political parties registered in the elections to have access to the radio, press, and television.

The FSLN proposal was announced by FSLN Directorate member Commander Carlos Nunez, who stressed that the goal is to draft and approve the draft electoral law as soon as possible so that it can be presented to the State Council in plenum. The presentation of this draft electoral law in Nicaragua is another step in the institutionalization process of the Sandinist revolution and in the reaffirmation of its popular and democratic nature.

'OUR AMERICA' ON HELICOPTER INCIDENT, U.S. PLAN

PA202204 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 19 Jan 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The incursion of a U.S. helicopter into Nicaraguan territory on 11 January demonstrates that the imperialists are becoming increasingly involved in the aggression against Nicaragua. This is the conclusion reached by the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] Military Commission that investigated the violation of Nicaragua's airspace by a U.S. OH-58 helicopter. The aircraft's pilot, an American, died in the incident.

According to the report, everything suggests that the helicopter, which was forced to return to Honduras by antiaircraft fire from Nicaraguan soldiers and militiamen, was on an exploratory mission in the Nicaraguan forces' theater of operations near the Honduran border, and that it was supporting the counterrevolutionary troops who are making incursions from that neighboring country. It has been reported that counterrevolutionary forces and Honduran troops have managed to deactivate mined areas in Nicaraguan territory.

Such an operation, which is carried out by sappers, requires previous air and land surveillance. This would explain the constant violation of Nicaragua's airspace in the region of Jalapa. Thus, the incident in which the U.S. pilot died confirms the reports submitted by EPS intelligence bodies on the U.S. Army's presistent espionage activities in Nicaragua.

Commenting on the country's military situation, Nicaraguan Defense Minister Commander Humberto Ortega asserted that the incident involving the U.S. helicoper is connected with a new counterrevolutionary plan, known as the Sierra Plan. Its immediate goal is the occupation of part of Nicaragua's territory. He explained that the plan, which has been in preparation since late 1983, has as its theater of operations the area where the U.S. aircraft that on 11 Jnauary made an incursion into Nicaraguan areas near the Honduran border had been operating.

According to Ortega, the Sierra Plan calls for the occupation of several regions in the Nicaraguan Departments of Nueva Segovia or Chinandega by some 3,000 to 4,000 counter-revolutionaries, members of the so-called Nicaraguan Democratic Force, with the support of the Honduran Army.

The Sandinist leader charged that the major goals of this new counterrevolutionary offensive would be the areas of Ciudad Sandino, Murra, Santa Clara, and San Fernando, with the idea of controlling the road between Ocotal and Jalapa, which runs parallel to the Honduran border.

Since the counterrevolution has not achieved its objectives, this new plan calls for a more direct advisory role by the United States and greater participation by Honduran troops. Using Miskito Indians, the counterrevolutionary troops led by Eden Pastora also plan to stage simultaneous attacks on the Atlantic Coast localities. Pastora's forces are part of the aggressive U.S. strategy against Nicaragua, and this strategy also includes actions near the Costa Rican border.

After outlining this scenario, Ortega stressed that the threat of an invasion is no rhetoric, but a real danger related to the thousands of U.S. military men stationed in Honduras, their frigates in both the Pacific and the A lantic engaged in espionage activities, and the surveillance carried out by their plans. We are not imagining a warmongering scenario, he stressed; this is the reality imposed by the United States. Therefore, Ortega went on, an increasingly dangerous military situation will develop around the Contadora Group's efforts. He also warned that if the United States increases its participation in the military activities against Nicaragua, this might disrupt the Sandinist efforts to hold elections in 1985. The minister added that there is a real determination to hold elections, but that Washington has continued with its aggressive policy and is now using new units in addition to the Honduran Army in support of the counterrevolutionary groups.

WASHINGTON POST CITED ON HELICOPTER SHOOTDOWN

PA202035 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Jan 84

[Text] The U.S. military helicopter that was forced to land on Honduran territory last week and whose pilot was killed was supposed to fly over Nicaraguan territory, where it was hit, according to THE WASHINGTON POST. The paper cited Honduran Army Colonel Danilo Farrera, who said that a radio message that was intercepted on the day of the incident revealed that the helicopter's flight plan included the town of Sifuentes, near the Nicaraguan border.

Ferrera's statement belies the claims of James Strachan, the U.S. military adviser in Tugucigalpa who said that the craft's flight plan did not include an approach to the border.

The same paper carried an article indicating that Argentina has notified Washington that it is suspending all further aid to the counterrevolutionary bands in Central America, reaffirming its support for the Contadora Group. The U.S. paper also noted that nearly all military assistance to the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary groups originates in the United States.

U.S. OFFICIAL DIES IN GUATEMALA PLANE CRASH

PA222229 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Jan 84

[Text] A U.S. official, Robert Prescott, and 12 Guatemalan military officers -- including some high-ranking ones -- died on Saturday when their Air Force plane crashed into a mountain north of Guatemala City. The U.S. Embassy has offered no statement about the event. It is expected that the embassy will explain this Sunday why the U.S. officer was travelling in the aircraft, an Israeli-made ARAVA.

The Guatemalan Army's public relations office reported it had no exact information about the accident, but rejected the idea that it might have been perpetrated by a guerrilla group.

U.S. PUBLIC OPPOSES KISSINGER STUDY RESULTS

FL201350 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Jan 84

[Excerpt] An overwhelming majority of U.S. citizens opposes the conclusion of the Kissinger commission that the United States should increase its military participation in Central America, according to a poll carried out by the Harris Institute.

PANAMANIAN YOUTHS PROTEST U.S. POLICIES

PA202027 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Jan 84

[Text] A demonstration was staged in front of the U.S. Embassy in Panama City to protest the U.S. Government's violations of the canal treaties. The demonstrators paid tribute to the Panamanian youth Rolando Alberto Perez Palomino, who sacrificed himself on 10 January by setting fire to himself on the embassy's grounds. The demonstrators distributed the complete text of the letter left by young Perez Palomino explaining the reasons for his dramatic decision.

PANAMA DAILY NOTES U.S. SOUTHERN COMMAND PLANS

PA221909 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Jan 84

[Text] The Panamanian newspaper MATUTINO has asserted that the U.S. Southern Command is strengthening a new army in El Salvador and setting up a military base in Honduras similar to the base in Guantanamo, which is illegally enclaved in Cuba. The newspaper stressed that, according to U.S. General Paul Gorman, the U.S. Southern Command has readied an action plan that includes strengthening the Salvadoran Army, increasing its troop strength from 30,000 to 50,000 men, and providing military aid in excess of $200 million this year. As for the base in Honduras, MATUTINO stressed that the installation would be available for troop mobilization in the event of an emergency in El Salvador or Nicaragua.

CDB TO ASK COUNTERPART FUNDS AID FOR GRENADA

FL211942 Bridgetown CANA in English 1735 GMT 21 Jan 84

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 21 (CANA) -- International aid donors, scheduled to meet in Barbados on February 6 at a conference convened by the Bridgetown-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) to focus on Grenada, will be asked to provide counterpart funds to supplement any capital financing they can offer the Spice Isle, a senior CDB official has said. CDB Economics and Programming Director Marius St Rose says the donor countries and agencies will be asked to make as much of the resources as possible available on concessionary terms -- preferably grants.

Since Grenada's political crisis last October -- a leftist coup followed by a U.S.-Caribbeanmilitary intervention -- the CDB, at the request of Governor General Sir Paul Scoon, has been assisting the island in devising an economic programme and coordinating efforts to mobilise funds with which to finance it. The bank is working on the basic background document for the February 6 meeting and it is expected that the report will be refined into a three-year development plan. The most likely conference participants are representatives of the governments of Canada, Trinidad and Tobago, Britain, the United States, and Venezuela. The European Economic Community (EEC), United Nations agencies, and other international organisations with offices here are also expected to be present.

St Rose, who is one of three top CDB officials assisting in the Grenada economic recovery programme, was asked in the CDB's quarterly newsletter about the likelihood of very special new funding being channelled to Grenada by the CDB, or through CDB by other concerned financial institutions. He said that the bank had not earmarked any special funding for Grenada as a result of the dislocation and destruction there last October, but its analysis indicates that the country's fiscal situation is weak. "Certainly, if the country is to benefit from the ambitious capital programme which is planned," he said, "the (interim) administration will need budgetary support, particularly for providing counterpart funding for projects which both the CDB and other donors may be prepared to finance." He added: "I think that they are operating in the position of a budget deficit at this time, and as a result of that they cannot find funds to meet their normal recurrent expenditure, service their debts, and also make a small contribution towards their capital projects. For this reason, the CDB will be making a plea, in the document, for donors to come forward to provide counterpart funding to supplement whatever capital financing they would be offering Grenada, and to make as much of the resources as possible available on concessionary terms -- preferably grants," St Rose said.

GRENADA

ADVISORY COUNCIL WILL MAKE CHANGES AFTER 27 JAN

FL200245 Bridgetown CANA in English 2254 GMT 19 Jan 84

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Jan 19 (CANA) -- Grenada's two-month-old interim government said today there have been some changes in portfolio allocations among its nine members which will take effect around month-end.

A formal announcement of the reshuffle will be made after the Advisory Council meets on January 27 with the leaders of Barbados, Jamaica, and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States to discuss Grenada's national security, Chairman Nicholas Brathwaite said.

"Shifts in cabinet portfolios have been considered. Preliminary decisions have been made in some respects and the actual implementation of these changes will be made after the meeting," he told the CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY (CANA).

The security meeting here was originally scheduled to have taken place on January 13, but was postponed because the interim government was then locked in discussions with a number of international organisations.

Barbados, Jamaica, and the OECS member-countries made token contributions to the U.S. Caribbean force that effected last October's military intervention here following the bloody overthrow of the left-wing government of slain Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

Brathwaite said the portfolio changes were brought about by the inability of Grenadian economist, Alister McIntyre, to assume duties as head of the Advisory Council because of illness. He said some council members had been moving around observing their new areas of responsiblity. This does not necessarily mean, however, that they have taken up their new positions, he said.

The interim government, installed after the U.S.-led military intervention, will administer Grenada's affairs until a civilian administration is elected in general elections planned for the second half of this year.

GOVERNMENT TO SEEK FUNDS AT DONORS MEETING

FL201557 Bridgetown CANA in English 1519 GMT 20 Jan 84

[By Reudon Eversley]

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Jan 20 (CANA) -- Grenada's financially-trapped interim government will seek funding for all the major projects it sees as crucial to the island's future development at an international donors conference scheduled for Barbados Feburary 6, a top official said today.

Advisory Council Chairman Nicholas Brathwaite said invitations had been sent out to several countries and international aid agencies to participate in the conference, organised exclusively for Grenada. He declined to give names. "What we will do at this conference is present information about the economy, the policy objectives of the interim administration, and the projects we have identified in our development strategy," Brathwaite told the CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY (CANA).

The Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), whose president, William Demas, is serving as economic consultant to the interim government, recently completed a two-year economic development plan, which will be a key document going before the Barbados meeting.

The projects include the completion of the half-built Point Salines International Airport, road reconstruction, tourism development, improvement of water and electricity services, and upgrading the island's education and health services. For road reconstruction alone, Brathwaite said 110 million dollars (U.S.) was "a conservative estimate" of funds needed to get Grenada's pot-holed roads back up to mark.

The interim government, appointed shortly after last October's U.S.-led military intervention, will administer Grenada's affairs until a new administration is elected in general elections planned for the latter half of this year.

Said Brathwaite: "We might not be able to get some of the projects started even though we may have got the funding for them. But we would have set the stage for the elected government to take off because it would have met a situation where its base would have been laid," he added.

GAIRY RETURNS, WELCOMED BY GULP SUPPORTERS

No Government Response

FL202035 Bridgetown CANA in English 1925 GMT 20 Jan 84

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Jan 20 (CANA) -- Head of Grenada's interim administration, Nicholas Brathwaite, says it will not respond in any special way to the return tomorrow of exiled former Prime Minister Eric Gairy.

Officials of Sir Eric's Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) have received police permission for a special meeting at Pearls Airport to coincide with Sir Eric's return from the United States. He went to the U.S. on official business the day before the Marvh13, 1979 coup which brought the deposed left-wing People's Revolutionary Government to power.

Brathwaite, who heads the Advisory Council which has been running Grenada's affairs in the aftermath of last October's U.S.-led invasion, said it will react to Sir Eric in the same way it reacts to any other leader of a political party. "The interim government is not going to respond in any special way to Sir Eric's return."

Catherine Raeburn, wife of the GULP chairman, Oliver Raeburn, said party officials were expecting around 20,000 people to be at the airport to welcome Sir Eric, and they had received police permission to hold a meeting. She said the GULP had not received permission for a planned motorcade to the capital, St George's. Raeburn, who was agriculture minister in Sir Eric's government, said earlier this week that a motorcade was being considered as part of the activities to welcome back the ex-prime minister.

In St George's, Sir Eric's homecoming is a major talking point. Almost everywhere, around street corners, along the horseshoe-shaped waterfront, Grenadians are exchanging opinions about the implications of the ex-prime minister's return, which does not appear to be popular.

Sir Eric has said he will not seek office in general elections planned for later this year to return Grenada to elected constitutional rule after four-and-a-half years of left-wing revolutionary government. He says his new role will be consultant to his party which is fielding candidates in all 15 constituencies.

Will Not Run in 1984

FL211630 Bridgetown CANA in English 1600 GMT 21 Jan 84

[By Reudon Eversley]

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Jan 21 (CANA) -- Former Grenada Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy was given a carnival-like welcome by a few hundred members and supporters of his Grenada United Latour Party (GULP) when he returned from exile today.

Asked by reporters at Pearls Airport how it felt to be back, Sir Eric said in a voice choked with emotion, "Words cannot express. I have been five years in exile. Words cannot express." Sir Eric, 62, was overthrown in March 1979 while the veteran politician was on his way to the United States on official business. He has lived in the U.S. since then. A U.S.-led invasion of Grenada in October which toppled a shortlived military government that had ousted and killed Gairy's leftist successor, Maurice Bishop, paved the way for his return.

The former prime minister arrived by light aircraft on a private flight from St Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The flamboyant Sir Eric was nattily dressed in cream suit, white shoes, and off-white hat. He was accompanied by an unidentified man, believed to be a bodyguard. After a short impromptu news conference, Gairy moved across the air-strip tarmac where cheering supporters mobbed and kissed him. Others in the streets outside danced and sang as the occasion took on a carnival atmosphere. One banner read: "We never let our leader fall."

Sir Eric asked his supporters to sing two hymns -- "Stand Up, Stand Up, for Jesus," and "O God Our Help in Ages Past." Then, amidst the movement of aircraft, he led them in prayer during which he gave thanks for the "rescue mission" by the U.S. and seven Caribbean islands. One elderly woman, dressed in all-white, presented Sir Eric with a bouquet of white plastic flowers and a white rosary. She said, "This is for my premier, I love him." Gairy later left the airport for the Grenada capital, St George's.

Among those greeting him on his arrival were officials of his GULP, including Chairman Oliver Raeburn. Local GULP officials were denied police permission to hold a motorcade and demonstration as part of the welcome for their leader.

Sir Eric, who led the GULP to victory in seven out of eight elections since 1950, insisted to reporters that he will not participate in elections planned for the latter half of 1984. He said he would not even speak on political platforms, but stressed that it did not mean he was retiring from active politics. "You know the song Que Sera Sera, What Will Be Will Be," Gairy quipped. He said the decision not to take part was taken to expedite the holding of a poll. Grenadians have not voted since 1976.

The non-political Advisory Council, installed after the invasion, has promised to hold a vote after May. Sir Eric called on them to speed up the process. He said he had held discussions with diplomats of a number of unnamed countries before returning but had been told that the Grenada Government had no legitimacy. "Everyday Grenada remains in the present situation, we are losing. The quicker we can go ahead with the election it is the better."

Gairy said he had proposed returning about three weeks ago, but his plans were smashed by the Barbados Government. "They said they will not allow me to enter." Sir Eric was deported from Barbados last September after arriving the month before for a holiday. No reason was given for the action. It was his first visit to the Caribbean since he was removed from political office.

His return to Grenada will disappoint Caribbean leaders who intervened in Grenada. Last October the Dominica prime minister, chairman of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) which made the call for help to Washington, called Gairy "a political undesirable."

Sir Eric's latter years in office were marked by charges of repression and corruption. Ironically, his return marked to the day the 10th anniversary of the gunning down in political violence of Bishop's father, Rupert, allegedly at the hands of Gairy's private police squad, the Mongoose Gang. There was no co-incidence, Gairy told reporters. He just chose to come home on a Saturday.

RADIX DEMANDS U.S. COMPLETION OF AIRPORT WORK

PA222319 Paris AFP in Spanish 2043 GMT 22 Jan 84

[Text] St George's, Grenada, 22 Jan (AFP) -- The peoples of Grenada "will not be satisfied as long as this international airport remains unfinished, and demand that those who invaded our country finish it," Hendrick Radix, former minister of industrial development and fisheries of the late Prime Minister Maurice Bishop's govenrment, stated last night. Radix made this statement at a ceremony honoring Bishop and other members of his government killed last October.

Radix noted that "99 percent of the $50 million destined for the airport" was obtained by Maurice Bishop's "efficiency." He underlined Cuba's assistance to Granada at the time, stating that "the Cuban people are exemplary, and not the criminals that propaganda is seeking to portray them as today."

The former minister denounced the silence of official media in Grenada regarding Maurice Bishop's death. "We had an honest, popular, and democratic leader who brought into the country annually $95 million to aid our total development." Bishop "died, and the official silence maintained in that respect makes it seem as though he never existed," Radix stated.

JAMAICA

SMITH URGES INTERNATIONAL BANKS TO LOWER RATES

FL170029 Bridgetown CANA in English 2215 GMT 16 Jan 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Jan 16 (CANA) -- Jamaica's Labour Minister J.A.G. Smith has urged international banks and other lending agencies to cut their interest rates and make other concessions, or face massive default by Third World debtors. Smith also warned of political turmoil in debtor countries as they battle with the problem of the "redistribution of poverty."

Smith, who in a weekend speech to transport operators here dealt mainly with the Latin American problem, said that by providing concessions, the lending institutions would in the long run be serving their own interests.

Third World countries combined have a debt of over 600 billion dollars (U.S.), about half of which is owed by the countries of Latin America, whose problem forms the crux of what is now called "the debt crisis." Of the over 300-billion-dollar Latin American debt, well over 200 billion dollars is carried by three countries -- Brazil, Mexcico, and Argentina. Jamaica's own debt, though comparatively small at nearly two billion dollars, is burdensome and requires as much as half the island's import earnings to service.

Smith, declaring that Latin America in particular was going through "the most difficult and traumatic hardships," said: "The financial institutions and banking conglomerates have failed, in my opinion, to understand the problems of these small developing countries, and have failed to provide the type of financial assistance and opportunities that will allow these countries to develop and be self-supporting.... High interest, drastic reductions in already inadequate living standards, and massive devaluations have already proven to be a forumla for the redistribution of poverty and to create a climate to make these countries willing and able to accept communist ideologies. These are proven facts," Smith said.

Jamaica last November devalued the local dollar by over 44 percent. And a round of price increases that started in January last year, when the dollar was partially devalued, has continued into the new year with the government warning of continuing "economic adjustment" through 1984.

Smith said it would be more beneficial to the international bankers if "at least for the time being" they sacrifice high interest to avoid greater disaster. "The greater disaster is that of regional turmoil and a failure to pay at all, because already there are some countries in this region that are on the verge of making that decision," the Jamaican minister said.

Several Latin American countries have been seeking to reschedule their debts and many, even with new terms, have been unable to maintain their payments on interest or principal. The region's debt problem has been the focus of several conferences, including last week's meeting in Quito, Ecuador, where regional leaders were attempting to come up with a coordinated policy on the issue. Some countries favor the formation of a "debtors' club" to act as a conglomerate to negotiate rescheduling terms with banks.

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

GOVERNMENT STRIKE LEADERS FACE POLICE IN CURACAO

FL201347 Hilversum International Service in English 0730 GMT 20 Jan 84

[Text] Strike action on the Netherlands Antillean main island of Curacao took on a grimmer aspect yesterday when leaders of the public employees' strike faced police. They had wanted to go to government offices in the capital, Willemstad, but found the entire inner city cordoned off. The strike leaders had to abandon their plans to persuade more government workers to walk out, and to see Prime Minister Dom Martina to urge him to join them in negotiations.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

PNM CONVENTION RESCHEDULED FOR 10-12 FEBRUARY

FL211604 Bridgetown CANA in English 1535 GMT 21 Jan 84

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Jan 21 (CANA) -- The 1983 annual convention of Trinidad and Tobago's ruling Peoples National Movement (PNM), originally scheduled for last November, will now be held on February 10, 11, and 12, according to press reports here. The GUARDIAN newspaper said this will be the first time the convention will be held this late -- its postponement being caused by party leader Prime Minister George Chambers' attendance at the Commonwealth summit in India.

Chambers' stay out of the country was extended by his attendance at the Miami Trade Conference and on his return he was caught up in preparations for the 1984 budget. The party's general council this week adopted a resolution supporting the budgetary proposals.

By holding the 1983 annual convention next month, it appears likely that the PNM will have to hold two annual conventions this year. In addition, party groups which did not hold their conferences last year will, over the next few weeks, attempt to regularise their affairs.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

RESUMPTION OF TRADE WITH HAITI ANNOUNCED

FL171408 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] A government spokesman in Santo Domingo says neighboring Haiti plans to reopen trade between the two nations under a new import licensing agreement. Haiti stopped trade through the land borders with the Dominican Republic in early December, saying it was losing revenue from a suitcase trade by Haitian merchants buying goods in the Dominican Republic without paying Haitian import duties.

ECUADOR

PRESIDENT DISCHARGED FROM MILITARY HOSPITAL

PA200449 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Jan 84

[Text] Ecuadoran President Osvaldo Hurtado resumed his activities this morning following his discharge from the Military Hospital, where he had been admitted for a routine checkup. President Hurtado is in good health and will resume his normal activities, granting audiences and meeting with government officials.

SURINAME

DUTCH NEWS AGENCY QUOTED ON SURALCO AGREEMENT

FL201418 Bridgetown CANA in English 1350 GMT 20 Jan 84

[Text] The Hague, Jan 20 (CANA-REUTER) -- Suriname's bauxite workers have approved a basic agreement to end a month-old strike, the Dutch News Agency ANP said today. The agreement was reached in talks between the unions, officials of Lieutenant-Colonel Desi Bouterse's left-wing military government, and management of the U.S.-owned Suriname Aluminium Company (Suralco).

ANP, quoting sources in the capital Paramaribo, said more than 60 per cent of the strikers approved the agreement at a meeting last night. Suriname television said 95 per cent voted in favour of the accord and to return to work on Monday. Under the agreement, strikers will be paid for the days they were on strike. But part of the payment will be a loan from the military authorities and Suralco said about 65 per cent must be paid back.

Workers in the bauxite industry, which provides 80 per cent of the former Dutch colony's foreign exchange earnings, went on stirke last month when the government announced tax increases. Bouterse later cancelled the tax increases and forced the government's civilian administration to resign. But the strike continued with bauxite workers demanding free elections, the introduction of a constitution, and an end to military rule.

ARSONIST ATTACKS PLANNING OFFICE BUILDING

PA210212 Hilversum International Service in Spanish 0130 GMT 21 Jan 84

[Text] An unidentified man tried to set fire to the Planning Office building in Paramaribo, Suriname. He used gasoline, which he had poured on some automobiles parked in front of the building. The guards were able to control the fire, but the arsonist escaped.

Several fires have recently broken out in Paramaribo. "It is believed the fires were set by opponents of Lieutenant-Colonel Desi Bouterse's military regime.